PARLIAMENTARY DEBATES

(HANSARD)

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HOUSE OF COMMONS

OFFICIAL REPORT

FIRST SESSION OF THE FIFTY-FIFTH PARLIAMENT
OF THE UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN
AND NORTHERN IRELAND
FIFTY-NINTH YEAR OF THE REIGN OF
HER MAJESTY QUEEN ELIZABETH II

SESSION 2010–2011

COMPRISING PERIOD
25 October 2010—4 November 2010

HER MAJESTY'S GOVERNMENT

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25 October 2010

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 25 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

"A Long-Term Focus for Corporate Britain"

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): I announced on 22 September that I would be undertaking a review into corporate governance and short-termism. Today's publication of "A Long-Term Focus for Corporate Britain—a call for evidence" marks the first stage of this review.

The UK has benefited greatly from open, free and well functioning capital markets. Our companies and markets have been successful in attracting investment into the UK and providing wealth creation which we need to prosper as a nation. But recent events have exposed weaknesses. We must ensure that growth is not compromised by short-term volatility or its benefits captured by a few at the expense of the many who provide the capital, and the wider national interest.

Government intervention, both through regulation and other measures, seeks to address such failures, while maintaining markets which are as free and open as possible. The UK has led the world in developing high standards of corporate governance, most recently with the introduction of the stewardship code, setting out the role of shareholders in holding directors to account.

These are important steps to secure sustainable UK growth for the future. The review aims to establish whether there are further issues affecting the functioning of capital markets and, if so, what are the causes. It considers the role of directors and shareholders and asks fundamental questions; for example, about shareholder engagement, market short-termism and the functioning of the investment chain in the UK. It also considers directors' remuneration and—following up the takeover panel's recent announcement—the economic case for takeovers.

This review builds on the report published by the Business, Innovation and Skills Committee on "Mergers, Acquisitions and Takeovers: The Takeover of Cadbury by Kraft". It is also closely linked to the Department's recent consultation on the future of narrative reporting.

I am placing copies of this document in the Libraries of both Houses.

TREASURY

ECOFIN

The Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Mark Hoban): The Economic and Financial Affairs Council was held in Luxembourg on 19 October 2010. The following items were discussed:

Administrative Co-operation in the Field of Taxation

This directive aims to improve arrangements for exchange of information on request and bring the EU into line with OECD standards. It also extends automatic exchange of information, which the UK supports to the extent that this does not impose disproportionate burdens on business or on tax authorities at a time of fiscal consolidation. The Council agreed that they would aim to reach political agreement on this issue at their November meeting.

VAT Reverse Charge Derogation

The Council agreed that a new derogation should be provided, until the end of 2013, to Germany, Italy and Austria, allowing the application of a reverse charge to mobile telephones and computer chips. The Council also agreed to extend, until the same date, the UK's VAT reverse charge to domestic trade in mobile phones and computer chips. The reverse charge has been a key component in reducing VAT fraud and has helped protect billions of pounds since 2007.

Stability and Growth Pact

The Council discussed Lithuania and Romania's excessive deficit programmes. They agreed that the actions taken by both countries represented adequate progress towards the correction of excessive deficits within the deadlines set by the Council, and that no further steps under the excessive deficit procedure were required at the moment.

Debrief on the Informal ECOFIN Meeting

The Council briefly took stock of discussions held during the informal ECOFIN in Brussels on 30 September and 1 October.

Preparation of the G20 Ministerial Meeting

The Council endorsed the terms of reference for the G20 ministerial meeting in South Korea on 22 and 23 October. These will form the basis of the EU's contribution to the meeting. The Government believe that these reflect UK priorities. However, since the UK's views are represented through the separate UK seat in the G20, the UK is not bound by these terms of reference.

Tertiary Education

The Council adopted conclusions on a Commission report on tertiary education. The UK is content with the report, which was commissioned by the May ECOFIN Council to assess the efficiency and effectiveness of public spending on tertiary education.

Report on Fiscal Frameworks

Ministers adopted Council conclusions which welcome a report on fiscal frameworks. The Government support the report, which highlights common features of successful national experiences in the Netherlands, Sweden and Austria.

Preparation for European Council: Levies and Taxes on Financial Institutions

ECOFIN agreed a report to the European Council on levies and taxes on financial institutions. The Government are content with the report, which recognises that there is no consensus on how national Governments should deploy the proceeds from bank levies. It states that an EU-only financial transaction tax could result in significant distortion of competition and relocation of financial activity within the global financial system, so careful analysis needs to be carried out.

Alternative Investment Fund Managers Directive

The Council reached unanimous political agreement on the presidency's compromise text on the alternative investment fund managers directive. This will now form the basis of further discussions with the European Parliament, which is due to vote in plenary session in November. This agreement represents a number of significant gains for the UK from the ECOFIN general approach of 5 May, including provision to extend the marketing passport to managers and funds outside of the EU. The Government also successfully ensured that the agreement limits the powers of the European Securities and Markets Authority to those already provided for in the package on financial supervision.

National Infrastructure Plan 2010

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): The Government have today published a national infrastructure plan outlining its vision for the future of UK economic infrastructure.

This is the first ever infrastructure plan for the UK. It outlines the scale of the challenge facing UK infrastructure and the major investment that is needed to underpin sustainable growth in the UK. It focuses on the networks and systems—in energy, transport, digital communications, flood water, waste management and in science—that provide the infrastructure on which our economy depends. The plan gives clarity on the role of Government in specifying what infrastructure we need and how they can remove barriers to mobilise both private and public sector resources to maintain our world class infrastructure.

Copies of the document have been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and are available on the Treasury website at: www.hm-treasury.gov.uk.

Tax Information Exchange (Netherlands Antilles)

The Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury (Mr David Gauke): A tax information exchange agreement (TIEA) was signed with the Netherlands Antilles in The Hague on 10 September 2010.

The text of the TIEA has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses and made available on HM Revenue and Customs' website. The text will be scheduled to a draft Order in Council and laid before the House of Commons in due course.

CABINET OFFICE

London Regional Committee Report (Government Response)

The Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Francis Maude): The report by the House of Commons London Regional Committee on their only inquiry into London's population and the 2011 census was published on 31 March 2010 (HC 349). This Government did not re-establish the Regional Committees. They recognise the importance of providing a response to Parliament on the issues raised by the Committee. The majority of the recommendations in the report were for the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Two of the Committee's recommendations were for Government and this written ministerial statement provides the Government's response. The other recommendations were for ONS and I have placed today a copy of its response in the Library of the House.

This Government have serious concerns about the 2011 census introduced by the previous Parliament. Having given the issue serious consideration, and the costs already incurred, the 2011 census is the only way that unique information can be provided to meet essential UK and EU requirements in the given timeframe at no extra cost than that budgeted. It is important that the 2011 census goes ahead and this Government will continue to promote the importance of the public engaging with the 2011 census.

Given the highly mobile nature of the population, the UK Statistics Authority recognises the increasing difficulties and costs in carrying out a census. The authority has therefore instructed ONS to urgently work on developing alternatives, with the intention that the 2011 census is the last of its kind.

Recommendation 21 of the Committee's report was dealt with by the previous Government, with my predecessor writing to the Chair of the Committee shortly before the report was published.

Recommendation 14 of the report was on the need for the census address register being developed by the ONS for the 2011 census to be maintained after the census. The previous Government failed to deliver a definitive address register, despite the demands for such a register and the associated costs of inefficiency in maintaining a number of similar registers. This Government are working with the parties concerned and will look to deliver a definitive register. Considerable progress has already been achieved. The work ONS has done will form part of the solution.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Ports Tax

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (Robert Neill): Since the day we came into Government, we have been committed to finding a solution to the "ports tax"—the unfair backdated rates bills incurred by some businesses.

We announced in June that we would waive these backdated bills which businesses were telling us threatened jobs, investment and in some cases their solvency. However, we were clear that the waiver would require primary legislation.

I am today announcing that the Government intend to include in the forthcoming localism Bill, the necessary provisions to cancel certain significant and unexpected backdated business rates bills. This will allow affected businesses, in ports and others across England, to move forward confidently, unburdened by the crippling debt imposed by this liability.

DEFENCE

Call-Out Orders: Reserves

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): With the expiry of the call-our order made on 24 October 2009, a new call-out order has been made under section 56 of the Reserve Forces Act 1996 to enable reservists to continue to be called out into service to support our wider efforts to counter the threat from international terrorism and piracy, and to assist our maritime security objectives. The order takes effect from 25 October 2010 and ceases to have effect on 24 October 2011. Some 250 reservists were called out under this order made last year and their continued support is greatly appreciated and valued.

JUSTICE

Right to Information (Criminal Proceedings)

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): The Government have decided to opt-in to the directive on the right to information in criminal proceedings. The directive meets the criteria set out in the coalition agreement with regard to EU justice and home affairs measures.

The draft directive will provide minimum standards for individuals subject to criminal proceedings. British citizens abroad will benefit under the directive from increased confidence in procedural standards across the European Union. It will also increase security at EU level by supporting existing provisions which help combat crime and promote the rule of law.

The Government will approach forthcoming legislation in the area of criminal justice on a case-by-case basis, with a view to maximising our country's security, protecting Britain's civil liberties and preserving the integrity of our criminal justice system.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Cold Weather Payments

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): I am pleased to announce that the cold weather payment rate which was due to return to its default level of £8.50 will be permanently increased to £25.00 from this winter. Amending regulations were laid today and will come into force on 1 November 2010, in time for the beginning of this winter period.

Cold weather payments provide help for pensioners in receipt of pension credit and to certain vulnerable groups in receipt of income support, income-based jobseeker's allowance and income-related employment and support allowance to meet heating costs incurred, or likely to be incurred, in cold weather.

Payments are triggered when the average of the mean daily temperature for a period of seven consecutive days at given weather stations is recorded as, or is forecast to be zero degrees Celsius or below.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 26 October 2010

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme (Northern Ireland)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): Today the Government are announcing the suspension of the Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme in Northern Ireland from 1 December 2010, as a result of the recent European General Court ruling which annulled the European Commission's state aid approval for the scheme in response to action taken by the British Aggregates Association.

The effect of this is that quarry operators in Northern Ireland who are part of this scheme will have to pay the full rate of aggregates levy on supplies they make on or after 1 December. This date achieves a balance between complying with the Court's judgment and giving industry fair and reasonable notice of the change.

The Government remain a strong supporter of the scheme and continue to believe that it is the best way to drive the environmental improvements in the Northern Ireland quarrying industry that it was designed to stimulate.

Regulations to enact the change are being laid before Parliament today and are accompanied by an explanatory memorandum. The regulations are being published on the Office of Public Sector Information website, with links available on the HMRC website.

CABINET OFFICE

Electoral Commission (Additional UK MEP)

The Parliamentary Secretary, Cabinet Office (Mr Mark Harper): On behalf of the Lord President of the Council, I requested the Electoral Commission last month to make a recommendation on which one of the 12 UK electoral regions as defined in the European Parliamentary Elections Act 2002 should be assigned the additional MEP seat allocated to the UK by virtue of the transitional protocol concerning the composition of the European Parliament, agreed by the member states of the EU on 23 June 2010.

Under the terms of the European Parliament (Representation) Act 2003, the Electoral Commission in making this recommendation was obliged to ensure that the ratio of electors to MEPs is as nearly as possible the same in each electoral region.

The Electoral Commission is publishing today its recommendation, which has now been laid before Parliament. The recommendation is that the extra seat should be allocated to the west midlands electoral region. I am grateful to the Electoral Commission for its work in producing this recommendation which, in its usual way, it has undertaken entirely independently and without regard to the outcome.

The Government will include the necessary provisions to implement the Electoral Commission's recommendation in the forthcoming European Union Bill, as indicated in the Minister for Europe's statement of 13 September 2010. In the event that any changes to the electoral registration would result in a different UK electoral region gaining the seat while the European Union Bill is being considered by Parliament, the Government are clear that the Electoral Commission would be asked to make a further recommendation on the basis of the most recent data.

The Bill will also provide that the seat will be filled by reference to the results of the west midlands region at the last European parliamentary elections held on 4 June 2009, as if the extra seat had been available in the west midlands electoral region in those elections. This method of filling the seat is in accordance with the terms of the transitional protocol and is in line with the practice of most of the other member states which gain additional MEPs under the protocol.

Subject to parliamentary approval, the additional UK MEP provided for by the transitional protocol will be elected once the relevant provisions in the European Union Bill have entered into force, and once all EU member states have ratified the transitional protocol. The protocol cannot enter into force, and the additional MEPs provided for by the protocol cannot take up their seats, until all member states have ratified the protocol.

This is an interim measure until the next European parliamentary elections take place in June 2014. At those elections all UK MEPs, including the MEP for this extra seat, will then be elected as usual.

EDUCATION

Serious Case Review Overview Reports (Peter Connelly)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Education (Tim Loughton): I confirmed on Thursday 10 June 2010 the Government's decision that the overview reports of serious case reviews (SCRs), initiated on or after 10 June, would be published. The Government's aim in publishing SCR overview reports is to restore public confidence and improve transparency in the child protection system, and to ensure that the context in which the events occurred is properly understood so relevant lessons are learned and applied as widely as possible.

I also confirmed on 10 June the Government's commitment to publishing the overview reports of both the SCRs on the case of Peter Connelly. Today the Government are fulfilling that commitment.

The SCR reports have both been carefully and appropriately redacted and anonymised to protect the privacy and welfare of vulnerable children and their families.

The publication of these reports is not about apportioning blame but about allowing professionals to understand fully what happens in each case, and most importantly what needs to change in order to reduce the risk of such tragedies happening in the future.

I welcome the progress that Haringey and local partners have made over the past two years and it is essential that this progress continues.

I have placed a copy of both SCR overview reports in the House Library.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture and Fisheries Council (26 October)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): The Under-Secretary of State responsible for natural environment and fisheries, my hon. Friend the Member for Newbury (Richard Benyon) will represent the United Kingdom at the Agriculture and Fisheries Council in Luxembourg on 26 October.

There are three items on the agenda relating to fisheries and a joint item on agriculture. Discussion will take place on the following:

Baltic sea total allowable catches and quotas for 2011—about the level of fishing opportunities in the Baltic sea.

EU/Norway: Annual consultation for 2011—joint management of fish stocks with Norway in the North sea and Atlantic.

International Commission for the Conservation of Atlantic Tunas (ICCAT) meeting (management of Atlantic tuna stocks).

A single presentation on two agriculture items on regulations to simplify management rules in both rural development and the single common market organisation, and to provide Lisbon treaty alignment.

There are currently five items under any other business:

Presidency announcement of a "day of reflection for the pig sector".

North Atlantic Fisheries Organisation (NAFO)—Commission handling of the last negotiations.

Presidency feedback on the September Informal Agriculture Council.

African swine fever control measures—paper from the Lithuanian delegation.

Sugar—paper from the Portuguese delegation.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 27 October 2010

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Offshore Oil and Gas Licensing

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Charles Hendry): After thorough consideration of the applications made in the 26th offshore oil and gas licensing round, I have decided to offer 144 production licences. This demonstrates the continuing attractiveness both of the United Kingdom continental shelf as an oil and gas producing province and of DECC's licensing system.

My officials have carried out a screening assessment on the blocks for which applications were received.

The screening exercise found that significant effects on protected nature conservation areas could not be excluded in relation to 99 blocks. Detailed environmental assessments will be required before a decision can be reached in relation to the licensing of these blocks. These assessments will examine the implications for the protected nature conservation areas of awarding oil and gas licences. Accordingly, I will not be offering licences for these blocks at this time.

JUSTICE

Inquiries Act 2005

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am today laying before Parliament the Government's memorandum to the Justice Select Committee on post-legislative scrutiny of the Inquiries Act 2005.

The Inquiries Act 2005 introduced a comprehensive statutory framework for inquiries set up by Ministers to look into events that have caused or are capable of causing public concern. There are wide-ranging measures in the Act aimed at restoring public confidence in inquiries by making inquiry process swifter, more efficient and less costly while meeting public need for thorough and far-reaching investigation.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Automatic Enrolment

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Today, I am pleased to be able to publish the report of the independent review into making automatic enrolment work. The recommendations of the review team are a sensible and balanced package of proposals. In particular, the changes in scope and the deregulatory measures proposed will ensure the introduction of automatic enrolment is stable and proportionate. Therefore, I am pleased to announce that the Government will now proceed with implementation of the reforms on this basis.

The main recommendations are:

> The earning threshold for automatic enrolment should be aligned with the personal allowance for income tax and the threshold from which pension contributions become payable should be aligned with the national insurance primary threshold. Workers may opt in to saving and receive an employer contribution if they earn between these two thresholds.
>
> Automatic enrolment should apply to all employers regardless of size, as previously proposed.
>
> There should be an optional "waiting period" of up to three months before a worker needs to be automatically enrolled. Workers may opt in during the waiting period.
>
> There should be a simple system for employers to certify their money purchase pension scheme meets the required contribution levels.
>
> NEST is necessary to support successful implementation of automatic enrolment.

A copy of the review team's report will be available on the Department's website at: www.dwp.gov.uk/policy/pensions-reform/latest-news, later today. Copies will also be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office from 10.30 am today.

I am grateful to Mr Paul Johnson, Frontier Economics, who led the review team, and to Mr David Yeandle OBE, Engineering Employers' Federation, and Mr Adrian Boulding, Legal and General Group plc, who came together to make this review a success.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 28 October 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Reforming Debtor Petition Bankruptcy and Early Discharge

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Edward Davey): I am setting out today this Government's response to the consultation on Reforming Debtor Petition Bankruptcy and Early Discharge, which closed in February 2010.

In total 37 businesses, individuals, and representative bodies responded to the consultation, with the majority indicating broad support for the proposals. Copies of the non-confidential responses to the consultation are now available on the Insolvency Service website (www.insolvency.gov.uk) together with a summary of those responses.

It is clear from the responses that interested parties see benefits in removing the court from the process in circumstances where it is unnecessary for a court to take a decision. The Insolvency Service will be exploring with Ministry of Justice and HM Courts Services how best to realise those benefits to produce a bankruptcy system that is suitably accessible and affordable, as well as providing an efficient service for all those who need to use it. I expect that this work will result in enhanced and detailed proposals being published in due course.

There was also support for repeal of early discharge. This requires primary legislation, and will therefore be brought forward when parliamentary time allows.

Copies of the analysis of the consultation are being placed in the Libraries.

The Haldane Principle

The Minister for Universities and Science (Mr David Willetts): The Haldane principle is an important cornerstone for the protection of the scientific independence and excellence. We all benefit from its application in the UK.

The principle that decisions on individual research proposals are best taken by researchers through peer review is strongly supported by the coalition Government. Prioritisation of an individual research council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers. Such decisions are rightly left to those best placed to evaluate the scientific quality, excellence and likely impact of scientific programmes.

The Government do, however, need to take a view on the overall level of funding to science and research and they have decided to protect and to ring fence the science and research budget for the next four years. This decision has been made in the context of the current economic status of the UK and the strategic importance of research funding, while recognising the value of science to our future growth, prosperity and cultural heritage.

Over the years there has been some uncertainty over the interpretation of the Haldane principle. I intend to clarify this is a statement which will be released alongside the science and research budget allocations towards the end of this year. In order that this statement has the consent of the research community, I intend to consult with senior figures in the UK science and research community to develop a robust statement of the Haldane principle.

DEFENCE

Staff Reductions

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Defence (Peter Luff): I am announcing today that the Ministry of Defence is beginning formal consultation with the various representative trade unions of the Defence Support Group (DSG) on a proposed programme of staff reductions designed to maintain the organisation's profitable trading position and the valuable support it provides to defence.

Despite major cost savings and efficiencies delivered by DSG since its formation on 1 April 2008, the business is faced with declining order books. It must therefore begin a major structural reform to realign its capacity and capability with defence customers' reducing demand. Based on current workload plans, this will result in a reduction in staff levels by up to 600 by April 2013, around 17.5% of the DSG workforce. However, it is not envisaged that these reductions will result in site closures.

Implementation of the staff reductions must start as soon as possible to remove overcapacity and ensure the trading fund remains profitable and viable. The MOD does not expect the recent strategic defence and security review (SDSR) announcement to negate the need for staff reductions or the imperative for commencing consultation now. Should SDSR lead to a requirement for further staff reductions at DSG then this will be subject to a separate consultation process in due course.

Both MOD and DSG will do all that they can to minimise the effect to employees by delivering these staff reductions through voluntary means but naturally we cannot rule out potential release by compulsory means.

In parallel, the trade unions, MOD and DSG will work with other Government Departments and agencies to explore future job opportunities for DSG employees affected by these manpower reductions. Working closely with external training providers and agencies such as Jobcentre Plus and other advisory organisations, DSG will explore alternative training and job opportunities for any employees wanting to retrain for an alternative career.

In conclusion, I pay tribute to the outstanding service DSG personnel provide and the pivotal role they play in supporting the UK armed forces with the vital equipment they need on critical operations both at home and overseas.

EDUCATION

School Support Staff Negotiating Body

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): The SSSNB was established by the previous Government to develop a national pay and conditions framework for school support staff working in maintained schools in England. The Government have conducted a review of the future policy direction for determining school support staff pay and conditions, including the role of the SSSNB, and have concluded that the SSSNB does not fit well with the Government's priorities for greater deregulation of the pay and conditions arrangements for the school workforce. I therefore propose to introduce legislation to abolish the SSSNB at the earliest opportunity.

This decision means that school support staff will continue to have their pay and conditions determined in accordance with existing arrangements whereby decisions are taken at a local level by employers.

In reaching this decision the Government have considered very carefully the views of the SSSNB trade union and employer member organisations, and the SSSNB independent chair. I will be writing today to the independent chair and lead representatives of the SSSNB member organisations to notify them of the Government's decision.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Environment Council (14 October)

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I represented the United Kingdom at the Environment Council on 14 October in Luxembourg, together with the Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change, my hon. Friend the Member for Bexhill and Battle (Gregory Barker).

The Council agreed conclusions on the EU's negotiating position for the Nagoya conference on biodiversity. In support of the conclusions, I underlined the need for a united EU position to push for an ambitious but at the same time deliverable and realistic agreement. I pointed to the need to find a satisfactory agreement on a protocol on access and benefit sharing (ABS) and innovative ways of financing. I also highlighted the interconnection between biodiversity, climate change and development. Finally, I stressed the importance of the intergovernmental platform on biodiversity and ecosystems services (IPBES) work and the progress of the economics of ecosystems and biodiversity (TEEB) study.

Environment Ministers exchanged views on the Commission's proposal on the cultivation of genetically modified organisms (GMOs) in the EU. The discussion revealed that there are differing views among the member states on the proposal. In particular, several member states questioned how the proposal would work in practice and the compatibility of the proposal with WTO rules. I set out that the UK had yet to finalise its position but welcomed the Commission's proposal as an attempt to find a way through the current impasse on GMO decisions. I underscored that careful reflection was needed of the wider impacts, in particular on the consistency of the proposal with the WTO and the single market as well as the impact on consumer perceptions of food and food security.

Moving on to climate change business, the Council adopted procedural conclusions on the analysis of options to move beyond 20% greenhouse gas emission reductions and assessing the risk of carbon leakage. These take note of the report prepared by the presidency to follow up the Commission communication adopted at the end of May; welcome the ongoing discussions to assess policy options; invite the Commission to conduct further analysis; and indicate that this should also be informed by the roadmap for a low-carbon economy by 2050 currently under preparation by the Commission. The Council decided to revert to these issues as soon as possible with a view to the spring 2011 European Council.

Climate Change Ministers agreed the EU's negotiating position to take forward to COP 16 in Cancun at the end of November, adopting conclusions which set out the need to achieve a balanced outcome which paves the way for a global and comprehensive legally binding framework. The main focus of the discussion was the EU's position on agreeing a second commitment period of the Kyoto protocol, which will be a key issue for these negotiations. The Minister insisted on the need for the EU to send a clear signal of its willingness to agree a second commitment period provided that other countries enter a parallel legally binding agreement and the environmental integrity of the Kyoto protocol is addressed.

Under any other business, Hungary informed the Council about their ongoing efforts to contain the environmental damage from the recent red sludge.

JUSTICE

Service Personnel Deaths (Overseas)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Jonathan Djanogly): My hon. Friend the Minister for the Armed Forces and I wish to make our quarterly statement to the House with details of the inquests of service personnel who have died overseas. We maintain the highest possible regard for all of our service personnel who are or have been involved in the military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Our deepest sympathies, of course, lie with the families of those personnel who have made the ultimate sacrifice. We record with great sadness that since our last statement, on 22 July, a further 19 servicemen and women have lost their lives.

Today we are announcing the current status of inquests conducted by the Wiltshire and Swindon and other coroners. This statement gives the position at 21 October.

I have placed tables in the Libraries of both Houses which outline the status of all cases and the date of death in each case. Copies are also available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office. These tables include information about cases where a board of inquiry or a service inquiry has been held. We are encouraged to see that the average period of time from the date of death to the inquest continues to reduce, which is of considerable benefit primarily to the bereaved families, but also to other parties to the inquests. The average age of inquests into operational deaths which are yet unlisted is eight months.

Current status of inquests

Since the last statement 36 inquests have been held into the deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq or Afghanistan. This makes a total of 361 inquests held into deaths of service personnel on operations in Iraq and Afghanistan since June 2006, when additional resources were first provided to the Oxfordshire coroner.

Since operations commenced in 2001 there have been a total of 415 inquests into the deaths of service personnel who have lost their lives in Iraq and Afghanistan, including 11 service personnel who died in the UK of their injuries. In two further cases, no formal inquest was held, but the deaths were taken into consideration during inquest proceedings for those who died in the same incident.

We remain deeply grateful for the efforts of all of the coroners who are involved in conducting these inquests. We also wish to reiterate that our Departments are committed to working together, and to continuing the Government's support for these coroners.

Open inquests

Fatalities in Iraq and Afghanistan

There are no outstanding inquests into deaths prior to 1 April 2007, since when fatalities have been repatriated via RAF Lyneham in Wiltshire. Since October 2007 additional resources have been provided to ensure that a backlog of inquests does not build up in the Wiltshire and Swindon coroner's district. The coroner, David Ridley, transfers inquests for service personnel to a coroner closer to the bereaved family, wherever possible.

At present there are 102 open inquests to be concluded into the deaths of service personnel who died in Iraq and Afghanistan (59 involving deaths in the last six months). Of these, Mr Ridley has retained 33 inquests, while 58 inquests are being conducted by coroners closer to the next of kin. At 21 October, one recent fatality awaited repatriation and inquest opening. Hearing dates have been set in 10 cases.

Inquests into the deaths of service personnel who returned home injured

There remain 11 inquests to be held of service personnel who returned home injured and subsequently died of their injuries. These will be listed for hearing when the continuing investigations are completed.

We shall continue to keep the House informed about progress with the remaining inquests.

Mental Capacity Act 2005

The Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice (Mr Kenneth Clarke): I am today laying before Parliament the Government's memorandum to the Justice Select Committee on post-legislative scrutiny of the Mental Capacity Act 2005.

The primary purpose of the Act was to empower and protect people who may lack capacity to make decisions for themselves and to enable people to be able to make provision for a time in the future when they may lack capacity. Implementation of the Act has ensured that these measures are in place.

PRIME MINISTER

Ministers: Overseas Travel, Hospitality, Gifts and Official External Meetings

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): The Government are today publishing details of ministerial overseas travel; hospitality received; gifts given and received over £140; and official meetings with external organisations during the period 13 May to 31 July 2010. This information is being published on departmental websites and will be updated and published on a quarterly basis on departmental websites.

I am also placing in the Libraries of both Houses: details of former Ministers' overseas travel costing over £500 during 2009-10; details of gifts given and received by former Ministers over £140 during 2009-10; and the annual list of those who received official hospitality at Chequers during 2009-10.

Special Advisers

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): Listed below are the names of the special advisers in post at 28 October 2010, including each special adviser's pay band, and actual salary where this is £58,200 or higher, together with details of the special advisers' pay ranges for 2010-11.

The estimated paybill for the period 12 May 2010 to 31 March 2011 remains at £4.9 million.

The paybill cost, including severance, for the period 1 April 2010 to 12 May 2010, totalled £2.1 million, of which £1.8 million was severance.

In future, this list of special advisers will be updated on a quarterly basis, and published on the No 10 website.

For the first time, departments are also publishing today, on their websites, details of gifts and hospitality received by their special advisers during the period 13 May to 31 July.

This information will be updated and published on departmental websites on a quarterly basis.

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in Post*	*Payband*	*Salary if £58,200 or higher (£)*
The Prime Minister			
	Andy Coulson	Within scheme ceiling	140,000
	Edward Llewellyn	Within scheme ceiling	125,000
	Kate Fall	PB4	100,000
	Gabby Berlin	PB3	80,000
	Tim Chatwin	PBS	70,000
	Steve Hilton	PBS	90,000

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in Post*	*Payband*	*Salary if £58,200 or higher (£)*
	Polly Mackenzie[1]	PBS	80,000
	Henry Macrory	PBS	70,000
	James O'Shaughnessy	PBS	87,000
	Lena Pietsch[1]	PBS	80,000
	Liz Sugg	PBS	80,000
	Peter Campbell	PB2	60,000
	Sean Kemp[1]	PB2	60,000
	Gavin Lockhart	PB2	
	Michael Salter	PB2	65,000
	Rohan Silva	PB2	60,000
	Isabel Spearman (p/t)	PB2	
	Sean Worth	PB2	
	Tim Colbourne[1]	PB1	
Deputy Prime Minister			
	Jonny Oates	PB4	98,500
	Richard Reeves	PBS	85,000
	Alison Suttie	PBS	80,000
	Chris Saunders	PB2	60,000
	James McGrory	PB1	
First Secretary of State, Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs			
	Arminka Helic	PBS3	70,000
	Denzil Davidson	PB2	
	Will Littlejohn	PB1	
Chancellor of the Exchequer[2]			
	Ramesh Chhabra	PB2	60,000
	Poppy Mitchell-Rose	PB1	
Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice			
	David Hass	PB2	69,266
	Kathryn Laing	PB1	
Secretary of State for the Home Department and Minister for Women and Equality			
	Fiona Cunningham	PB2	65,000
	Nick Timothy	PB2	65,000
Secretary of State for Defence			
	Luke Coffey	PB2	60,740
	Oliver Waghorn	PB2	60,740
	Hayden Allan	PB2	
Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills			
	Katie Waring	PB1	
	Giles Wilkes	PB1	
Secretary of State for Work and Pensions[1]			
	Susie Squire	PB2	
	Philippa Stroud	PB2	69,250
Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change			
	Duncan Brack	PB2	67,000
	Joel Kenrick	PB2	
Secretary of State for Health			
	Bill Morgan	PB3	76,000
	Jenny Parsons	PB2	

Appointing Minister	*Special Adviser in Post*	*Payband*	*Salary if £58,200 or higher (£)*
Secretary of State for Education			
	Henry de Zoete	PB2	
	Elena Narozanski	PB1	
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government			
	Giles Kenningham	PB2	64,500
	Sheridan Westlake	PB2	64,500
Secretary of State for Transport			
	Sian Jones	PB2	
	Paul Stephenson	PB2	
Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs			
	Simon Cawte	PB2	
Secretary of State for International Development			
	Philippa Buckley	PB1	
	Richard Parr	PB1	
Secretary of State for Northern Ireland			
	Jonathan Caine	PB2	69,266
Secretary of State for Scotland			
	Euan Roddin	PB2	60,000
Secretary of State for Wales			
	Richard Hazlewood	PB1	
Secretary of State for Culture, Media, the Olympics and Sport			
	Adam Smith	PB2	
	Sue Beeby	PB1	
Chief Secretary			
	Will de Peyer	PB2	63,000
	Julia Goldsworthy[3]	PB3	74,000
Minister without Portfolio			
	Naweed Khan	PB0	
Leader of the House of Lords, and Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster			
	Flo Coleman	PB0	
	Elizabeth Hanna	PB0	
Minister for the Cabinet Office, Paymaster General			
	Laura Trott	PB2	
Minister of State, Cabinet Office			
	Martha Varney	PB1	
Minister of State (Universities and Science), BIS			
	Nick Hillman	PB2	
Leader of the House of Commons and Lord Privy Seal			
	Robert Riddell	PB2	
Chief Whip (Commons)			
	Chris White	PB2	68,000
	Ben Williams	PB2	

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[1] Appointed by the Deputy Prime Minister and based in No. 10.

[2] In addition, the Chancellor of the Exchequer has appointed Rupert Harrison (PB3, £80,000), and Eleanor Shawcross (PB2) to the Council of Economic Advisers.

[3] Julia Goldsworthy will not receive her salary as a special adviser until November 2010, as she was in receipt of a Resettlement Grant when she lost her parliamentary seat at the general election in May.

Special Adviser Pay Bands for 2010-11.

The pay bands and pay ranges for special advisers for 2010-11 are as follows:

Scheme Ceiling	£142,668
Pay Band 4	£88,966 - £106,864
Pay Band 3 and Premium	£66,512 - £103,263
Pay Band 2	£52,215 - 69,266
Pay Band 1	£40,352 - £54,121
Pay Band 0	Up to £40,352

TRANSPORT

Cost of Ministerial Cars (2009-10)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I am publishing today details of the number of and cost to Departments of Government cars provided to Ministers by the Government Car and Despatch Agency during the year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010.

	No of Cars at 31-03-2010	*Total Cost*
Cabinet Office	4	£362,790.25
Department for Business, Innovation and Skills	7	£694,236.23
Department for Education (formerly Department for Children, Schools and Families)	6	£489,193.30
Department for Communities and Local Government	6	£488,276.10
Department for Culture, Media and Sport	3	£305,397.32
Department for Energy and Climate Change	4	£303,129.83
Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs	2	£275,989.34
Department for International Development	3	£256,656.35
Department for Transport	3	£282,979.08
Department for Work and Pensions	6	£506,726.45
Department of Health	6	£475,490.38
Foreign & Commonwealth Office	4	£368,534.31
HM Treasury*	6	£462,989.33
Home Office	6	£514,593.50
Law Officers' Department	2	£188,130.75
Ministry of Defence	1	£106,342.80
Ministry of Justice	4	£320,429.90
Northern Ireland Office	2	£77,850.84
Scotland Office	1	£107,812.75
Wales Office	2	£150,504.20
Total	*78*	*£6,738,053.01*

*Note. Figures quoted for HM Treasury do not include direct payments made outside of GCDA.

Ministers are now encouraged to use public transport where practicable and the number of Ministers entitled to an allocated Government car and driver has been kept to a minimum. Other Ministers are entitled to make use of the ministerial car pool service as needed.

Highway and Local Transport Schemes (Point of Order)

The Secretary of State for Transport (Mr Philip Hammond): I refer to the points of order made in the House on Tuesday 26 October expressing concern that an advance copy of my statement on investment in highway and local transport schemes had been made available to the hon. Member for Cheltenham (Martin Horwood). In response to those points of order, I stated that I had no knowledge of any advance copy of the statement being made available to him.

I have since been informed that an advance copy of the statement was sent by my office to the hon. Member for Cheltenham at the same time as a copy was sent to the official Opposition spokesman. I was not aware of this at the time and I would like to apologise for inadvertently misleading the House.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Chris Grayling): The Employment, Social Policy, Health and Consumer Affairs Council was held on 21 October 2010 in Luxembourg. Andy Lebrecht, UK Deputy Permanent Representative to the EU, represented the United Kingdom.

The main item of the agenda was a policy debate on the employment and social inclusion aspects of Europe 2020, the new European agenda for the next 10 years. The presidency set out the mechanics of the new EU2020 governance arrangements stating that the joint employment report should be the main vehicle for submitting messages to the spring European Council and the subsequent country-specific recommendations to the summer European Council. The UK supported the proposed governance arrangements, noting that the joint employment report should focus on robust evidence of what works. The UK outlined the key features of the spending review in this area—welfare reform and helping people into work. The UK would now consider the issue of "bottlenecks" and reform priorities in the EU context.

The Social Protection Committee Opinion on Social Protection and Social Inclusion in the Europe 2020 strategy was adopted. The presidency invited member states to comment on their own input to the social dimension of Europe 2020, particularly through national poverty targets and the national reform programmes. The Commission stressed that real consideration of the social dimension of Europe 2020 was essential if the strategy were to be a success, and urged member states to finalise their national targets. The UK explained that an approach to the national target had not yet been confirmed. The UK showed support for effective use of the open method of co-ordination and stressed that excessive new reporting burdens should be avoided.

The Council adopted the employment guidelines. The UK abstained in order to respect the UK parliamentary scrutiny position.

The Commission presented its recent initiative, Youth on the Move. This proposes to encourage worker mobility, improve education quality, training systems and support to young job seekers and entrepreneurs. The Commission also set out their intention for a new Roma communication next April. This would set out a framework for National Roma Integration, in which member states would be encouraged to develop strategies to deal with their Roma populations. On the Pensions Green Paper, the Commission stressed that the issue of demographic change would remain to be tackled even after the economic crisis had passed and that pension reform would consequently need to remain high on the agenda.

The presidency reported on conferences on poverty, child poverty, pensions and green jobs and also informed delegates about preparations for the next tripartite social summit.

Written Ministerial Statements

Monday 1 November 2010

TREASURY

The Office for Budget Responsibility (Treasury Committee Report)

The Economic Secretary to the Treasury (Justine Greening): The Government have today responded to the Treasury Select Committee report on the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR). Copies are available in the Vote Office and the Library. The Government are grateful to the Committee for its assistance in establishing the OBR and the legislation that is now before the House reflects many of the Committee's recommendations.

Independent Public Service Pensions Commission

The Chief Secretary to the Treasury (Danny Alexander): Lord Hutton has today published a further "Call for Evidence", which has been deposited in the Libraries of both Houses.

Periodic updates of the Commission's work will be made available through the website, located at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/indreview_Johnhutton_pensions.htm .

DEFENCE

Iraq Historic Allegations Team

The Minister for the Armed Forces (Nick Harvey): In March my predecessor announced the intention of the previous Government to set up a dedicated Iraq historic allegations team (IHAT) to investigate allegations of abuse of Iraqi citizens by British service personnel that have been brought to the Ministry of Defence's attention. The Government have endorsed the continuation of this approach, and we are determined to ensure that these allegations are investigated thoroughly and as quickly as possible.

I would like to inform the House that the IHAT now has a full investigative capability and has commenced work. The team is led by a retired senior civilian policeman and consists of military and ex-civilian police detectives who will ensure that each allegation is appropriately investigated. Given the volume of allegations and the complexity of investigating the events in question, we anticipate that it will take around two years to complete the work of the IHAT.

There are those who argue that the Government should hold a public inquiry into these unproven allegations now—we disagree. A costly public inquiry would be unable to investigate individual criminal behaviour or impose punishments. Any such inquiry would arguably therefore not be in the best interests of the individual complainants who have raised these allegations. Nevertheless, the Secretary of State for Defence has not ruled out holding a public inquiry at some point in the future, should serious and systemic issues emerge from IHAT's investigations that might justify it.

The establishment of the IHAT should not be taken as an admission of fault or failure. These allegations are as yet unproven, but their existence is corrosive to both the morale and reputation of our armed forces. We owe it to them, and the complainants, to investigate properly these allegations and that is exactly what the IHAT has now started to do.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council, 25 October 2010

The Minister for Europe (Mr David Lidington): The General Affairs Council and Foreign Affairs Council were held on 25 October in Luxembourg. The UK was represented by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs and myself.

The agenda items covered were as follows:

General Affairs Council (GAC)

The full text of all conclusions adopted can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/genaff/117366.pdf

Follow-up to the September European Council

The Commissioner for Inter-Institutional Relations and Administration (Sefcovic) briefed on EU 2020, covering the ongoing dialogue with member states on their national reform programmes which are due for submission in November.

I and others raised Pakistan and the importance of delivery on trade and development assistance commitments made at the September European Council. The Foreign Secretary repeated the call later at the FAC.

October European Council

Ministers discussed at length the issue of the taskforce on economic governance and possible treaty change at both the GAC session on 25 October, and the ministerial dinner with the President of the European Council (Van Rompuy) on 24 October.

Some Ministers made the case for treaty change, arguing that sanctions were integral to any agreement on the crisis resolution mechanism—and that political sanctions would have more clout than financial ones. Others called for greater consultation and transparency, and argued that the EU should avoid appearing divided on the question.

I underlined the importance to the UK of stability in the eurozone, and that it was therefore right that eurozone members strengthened governance arrangements within the eurozone. I stressed that the UK would not be part of any permanent crisis resolution mechanism and that sanctions would not apply to the UK. I undertook to look closely at what was proposed, but as the Prime Minister had already made clear, we would not support anything that involved a transfer of powers from Westminster to Brussels. Many backed my call for an indicative text to be circulated in advance of the European Council. The presidency concluded by saying that this discussion would continue with Heads at the European Council on 28-29 October.

There was a brief exchange on the EU position for the G20 summit in Seoul on 11-12 November where I pressed for more ambitious language on the Doha negotiations. On climate change, some Ministers expressed concern about the prospects for the UN framework convention to be held in Cancun from 29 November to 10 December. I emphasised the need to be clear about any conditions we should attach to any second Kyoto commitment period.

On the EU's approach to third-country summits, I and a number of other Ministers argued that conclusions from the summits should focus on clear deliverables. On the EU-US summit, many supported my call for a reinvigorated Transatlantic Economic Council with clear tasks. I also proposed including language on Pakistan. Ministers continued their discussions on third-country summits over lunch at the FAC.

Enlargement/Serbia

Conclusions were adopted that agreed to forward Serbia's membership application to the Commission, while emphasising, inter alia, the importance of co-operation with the International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia (ICTY), the need for constructive regional co-operation, and the importance of progress in the process of dialogue between Belgrade and Pristina.

External Action Service (EAS)

The Council gave political approval to the final EAS decisions on the Staff and Financial Regulations and the 2011 budget, with formal adoption expected after necessary legal procedures have been completed. Additionally, Baroness Ashton announced the appointments of Pierre Vimont as Executive Secretary General and David O'Sullivan as Chief Operating Officer of the EAS.

FOREIGN AFFAIRS COUNCIL (FAC)

The full text of all conclusions adopted, including "A" points, can be found at:

http://www.consilium.europa.eu/uedocs/cms_data/docs/pressdata/EN/foraff/117367.pdf

Union for the Mediterranean

Baroness Ashton set out proposals for a one-year transitional arrangement for the EU co-presidency of the Union for the Mediterranean. In response to concerns set out by the Foreign Secretary and others, Baroness Ashton agreed to look again at the proposals with the aim of reaching agreement on a legal basis acceptable to all member states before the 21 November summit.

Middle East Peace Process / Lebanon

Baroness Ashton briefed on her contacts with the US over the EU's role in supporting the US-led peace efforts. Following a discussion, she concluded that the EU needed to continue its influencing work with key international stakeholders and its support for Palestinian state-building and Gaza access and exports. Ministers agreed to reaffirm the EU's support for the Special Tribunal for Lebanon.

Cuba

Ministers exchanged views on options for the EU's approach towards Cuba. They agreed to task Baroness Ashton to reflect on this, working within the EU's Common Position, and report back to Ministers at a later date.

Sahel

Discussions on the Sahel region focused on the security risks it posed for both the region and Europe. Ministers adopted conclusions tasking Baroness Ashton, in liaison with the Commission, to elaborate a Sahel strategy by the beginning of next year.

European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)

The Commissioner for Enlargement (Fule) briefed Ministers on developments for reforming the ENP. The ENP review should culminate with a ministerial conference with ENP partners in February 2011. The UK emphasised that the door to EU enlargement must be kept open for partners that met the criteria. Although ENP was not a pre-accession instrument, it nevertheless provided a framework to prepare partners for eventual membership.

Iran

Ministers agreed an EU regulation implementing sanctions against Iran's nuclear programme.

Written Ministerial Statements

Tuesday 2 November 2010

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Convention on Biological Diversity

The Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Mrs Caroline Spelman): I attended the High-Level Segment 10th Conference of Parties to the convention on biological diversity, known as the Nagoya biodiversity summit, from 27 to 30 October. A team of officials from my Department and the Department for International Development supported me, having attended throughout the conference to prepare the ground for the ministerial High-Level Segment.

The conference concluded with all three of the UK's main objectives fully achieved:

> Agreement on a new strategic plan for global biodiversity conservation to 2020 and beyond. This comprises an ambitious, realistic and deliverable international mission, underpinned by 20 sub-targets on halting species loss and habitat degradation, reducing pollution and over-exploitation, and increasing financial support to developing countries
>
> Agreement on a resource mobilisation package to ensure that developing countries would have the capacity to implement the strategic plan; and
>
> Agreement on a new "Nagoya Protocol" on access and benefit sharing. It has taken 18 years to achieve this agreement, which establishes a regime under which developing countries will allow access to their genetic and natural resources in return for a share of the benefits—financial and other—for their use.

In addition to the three key issues under discussion, the Nagoya meeting saw nearly 50 individual decisions relating to a wide range of biodiversity issues—such as protected areas, biofuels, and invasive alien species—approved. The agreement emphasises the value of the natural environment to human welfare and livelihoods, and reflects the links between biodiversity, climate change and development. Notably, we gained agreement for the CBD to develop advice on the application of safeguards for biodiversity under REDD+ (Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries). The UK played a key role in securing this agreement.

Additionally on 26 October, I represented the UK at a ministerial meeting of the REDD+ partnership, a group of some 60 countries. This was an important opportunity to generate momentum before negotiations on REDD+ recommence at the UNFCCC meeting in Cancun later this year. At this meeting, I outlined the extended commitment to international climate finance provided under the spending review.

On the first day of the High-Level Segment, 27 October, I gave a speech, which included commitments on:

> new funding to deliver biodiversity benefits through international forestry;
>
> funding for the proposed Intergovernmental science-policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (IPBES); and
>
> support for key projects on the economic value of nature, building on the landmark "The Economics of Ecosystems and Biodiversity" (TEEB) report, which was published in Nagoya.

The new strategic plan will set the framework within which all 193 parties to the convention of biological diversity will be expected to operate domestically in order to play their part in the global conservation effort. Plans for implementing key elements of it in England will be included in the natural environment White Paper to be published in the spring.

PRIME MINISTER

United Kingdom-France Summit

The Prime Minister (Mr David Cameron): I am today issuing a declaration with President Sarkozy that proposes further co-operation in defence and security.

Underpinning this co-operation will be two treaties.

First we shall sign a defence and security co-operation treaty to develop co-operation between our armed forces to make our forces more interoperable, to maximise our capabilities, and to obtain greater value for money from our investment in defence.

Second we shall collaborate in the technology associated with nuclear stockpile stewardship in support of our respective independent nuclear deterrent capabilities, in full compliance with our international obligations.

In both cases this represents an intensification of our already strong relationship, not a reduction in national sovereignty.

I am placing a copy of the declaration in the Libraries of both Houses.

The treaties will be laid before Parliament in the usual way.

Written Ministerial Statements

Wednesday 3 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Penfold Review of Non-Planning Consents (Government Response)

The Minister of State, Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (Mr Mark Prisk): The Government have today published their response to the review into non-planning consents by Adrian Penfold which was published on 3 July 2010.

The Penfold review was set up to find out what problems business, and especially small businesses, encounter that can make or break investment in development. The investigation into "non-planning consents", such as environment permits, highways orders, and heritage consents that are needed alongside or after planning permission, found a complex and fragmented landscape that poses real problems for some businesses to navigate effectively.

The Government are committed to providing a regulatory environment that effectively delivers our policy commitments, but minimises unnecessary delay, complexity and cost for business and other applicants. Encouraging such an environment in the planning and development consents systems is crucial in ensuring the UK develops a competitive business environment that underpins business success, attracts investment and ultimately promotes economic growth.

The Government therefore welcome the recommendations of the Penfold review and will begin work to develop concrete reforms of the development consents system based upon the findings of the review. Our ambition is to use this review as a base from which to drive a programme of streamlining and simplification in the planning and development consents systems.

A further report will be published in spring 2011 with an update on progress.

Copies of the Government response to the Penfold review have been placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Leasehold Advisory Service: Annual Report and Accounts 2009-10

The Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps): I have today deposited in the Library of the House a copy of the annual report and accounts of the Leasehold Advisory Service (LEASE) for the financial year 2009-10.

LEASE is an executive non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Communities and Local Government (and by the Welsh Assembly Government) to provide advice, information and other services to the public and others in England and Wales on residential leasehold. (In 2009-10 LEASE was also sponsored by the Ministry of Justice to provide advice on commonhold tenure.)

The report sets out its main activities and performance during the year, details of its financial status, along with statistics on the number of inquiries it dealt with during the year. In 2009-10, for instance, LEASE dealt with 37% more inquiries than in 2008-09 and visits to its website increased by 18% on the previous year.

The report provides details of LEASE's performance against its key indicators and shows the value of the service LEASE provides to the public and others in the leasehold sector.

EDUCATION

Education Endowment Fund

The Secretary of State for Education (Michael Gove): The Government have today announced a new £110 million Education Endowment Fund (EEF) to help raise standards in underperforming schools. The Government's proposals draw on President Obama's "Race to the Top" programme, launched in 2009.

The EEF will distribute money to local authorities. Academy sponsors, charities and other groups who bring forward innovative proposals to improve performance in our most challenging schools. Those bidding for funds from the EEF will have to outline how their proposals will raise attainment. Bidders must also demonstrate how they will be held accountable for the success of their proposals.

By inviting bids from those who wish to turn round our weakest schools the Government are building on the transformative potential of the new pupil premium. Our most challenging schools are concentrated in our areas of greatest deprivation. The pupil premium will result in more money being allocated to support the education of all our poorest children, adding £2.5 billion to school funding by the end of the CSR period. The EEF will allow many of the schools which educate our poorest children to do even more. And the innovative practice it encourages should drive improvement across the school system.

The EEF will be administered at arm's length from Ministers. The team administering the fund will be appointed following an open competition.

Funding for projects will come from the returns on the EEF's investment—plus capital draw-down from the total sum each year. The independent organisation that runs the EEF will also be expected to attract additional contributions from other organisations and philanthropists to add to the fund.

This fund is being established from the money set aside when the Government took the decision not to increase the number of free school meals. The establishment of the fund fulfils the Government's pledge to use this money better to improve the attainment of disadvantaged pupils.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Parliamentary Written Question (Correction)

The Minister of State, Department of Energy and Climate Change (Gregory Barker): I would like to inform the House that a written answer I gave on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 923W to the hon. Member for Glasgow Central (Anas Sarwar) contained some inadvertent errors in that National Energy Action (NEA), Keep Britain Tidy and Action for a Global Climate Community Ltd were included in the answer. These three organisations should not have been included in the answer as each of them were recipients of grants.

The correct information is as follows:

DECC was formed in October 2008. The Department did not award any contracts to voluntary organisations during the financial year 2008-09.

Contracts awarded by the Department during the financial year 2009-10 to such organisations are as follows:

Voluntary organisation	*Amount paid (£)*
Barnardo's	56,226
The London Wildlife Trust	1,130
The Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB)	50,000

WORK AND PENSIONS

State Pension Age

The Minister of State, Department for Work and Pensions (Steve Webb): Plans to increase the state pension age to 66 were announced by the Chancellor of the Exchequer as part of the spending review. Today, the Government will publish details to show how the increase in the state pension age will be delivered.

More of us are now reaching state pension age and then living to draw a state pension for longer than ever before. Increasing longevity is a cause for celebration. Nevertheless, the legislated timetable for increases to state pension age was based on an expectation of longevity that has since been revised upwards.

Women's state pension age is currently rising from 60 to be equalised with men's at 65 by April 2020. To enable an earlier increase to 66, the equalisation timetable will be adjusted from April 2016 so that women's state pension age will reach 65 by November 2018. Then, in December 2018, the state pension age for men and women will start to rise so that it reaches 66 from April 2020.

Copies of the Command Paper will be available in the Vote Office and the Printed Paper Office and online at: http://www.dwp.gov.uk/spa-66-review.

Written Ministerial Statements

Thursday 4 November 2010

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Local Growth White Paper (Correction)

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable): I announced the publication of the Local Growth White Paper on Thursday 28 October. It has now come to my attention that the White Paper contains an error.

Paragraph 3.23 of the White Paper reads:

> "That is why, for example, nationally important infrastructure projects (such as large scale wind farms and power plants), the supply of aggregate minerals and planning for waste will become the responsibility of the Planning Inspectorate's recently announced Major Infrastructure Planning Unit".

The Major Infrastructure Planning Unit will not, however, be responsible for examining applications for aggregate mineral extraction. Nor will it be responsible for examining applications on those waste management facilities which fall below the thresholds set out in the Planning Act 2008. Therefore, paragraph 3.23 should read:

> "That is why, for example, nationally important infrastructure projects (such as large scale wind farms and power plants) will become the responsibility of the Planning Inspectorate's recently announced Major Infrastructure Planning Unit".

A correction slip to this effect has been added to the copies of the White Paper laid in the Journal Office and deposited in the Vote and other offices.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Planning Circulars (HMOs)

The Minister of State, Department for Communities and Local Government (Greg Clark): I am today publishing a replacement to Department for Communities and Local Government Circular 5/10 (on planning controls for houses in multiple occupation), and a replacement appendix D of Department of the Environment Circular 9/95 (on the article 4 direction process, that allows local planning authorities to withdraw permitted development rights in certain circumstances). Copies have been placed in the Library of the House.

A replacement to Department for Communities and Local Government "Circular 5/10: Changes to Planning Regulations for Dwelling Houses and Houses in Multiple Occupation" will cover changes to planning legislation introduced in October this year, which make changes of use from family houses to small HMOs permitted development (i.e. there is no need to obtain planning consent for this from the local planning authority).

Appendix D of Department of the Environment "Circular 9/95: General Development Consolidation 1995" relates to article 4 directions, which allow local planning authorities to withdraw permitted development rights. The updated appendix D being published today reflects amendments to the article 4 direction procedures introduced in April 2010. The main effect of these changes is to grant local planning authorities the ability to confirm article 4 directions themselves rather than to have to apply to the Secretary of State (as was formerly required for certain directions), require that all article 4 directions are subject to local consultation, and to require that all article 4 directions are publicised by site notice in addition to local advertisement.

The replacement appendix D also reflects amendments to the compensation provisions related to article 4 directions introduced in October 2010, which limit the period during which local authorities may be liable for such claims.

Taken together, the replacement to Circular 5/10 and the updated appendix to Circular 9/95 will ensure that up-to-date and accessible information exists in relation to planning controls over HMOs and the making of article 4 directions. No further impact assessment has been produced for these publications as changes to planning legislation of houses in multiple occupation and article 4 directions have previously been assessed.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Justice and Home Affairs (Pre-Council Statement)

The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for the Home Department (James Brokenshire): My right hon. Friend the Lord Chancellor and Secretary of State for Justice, Kenny MacAskill, the Scottish Secretary for Justice, and I will attend the Justice and Home Affairs Council on 8 and 9 November in Brussels.

The Council will begin with a Mixed Committee with Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland (non-EU Schengen States). Due to the standing commitment to update Council on the progress of the second generation of the Schengen Information System II (SIS II) the Commission will provide an update on developments.

Next there will be a discussion on the proposal to move Albania and Bosnia-Herzegovina to the positive annex of Regulation 539/2001 which would exclude their nationals from the EU visa requirement when travelling to the Schengen area. The United Kingdom does not participate in the border and visa aspects of the Schengen Acquis as they build on elements of the Schengen Acquis in which we do not participate. The UK will not be affected by changes to the regulation of the Common Visa List, but will maintain an interest in all visa issues notably issues relating to full reciprocity for third-country nationals.

The Council will note progress towards an amending regulation on Frontex, the EU external borders agency. The new regulation is intended to increase the capacity of Frontex to strengthen the security and surveillance of the external Schengen borders, to develop relationships with third countries, and better to assist member states to return those with no right to remain in the EU. The UK is not directly affected as the amending regulation relates to those elements of the Schengen Acquis in which we do not participate. However, the UK does provide support to the operational and other activities of Frontex and we have been actively engaged in the drafting process for the amendment. The UK is particularly keen to see that the remit of Frontex is extended to allow it to handle the personal data of those suspected of involvement in criminality at the border. We believe that being able to gather and share these data with other agencies such as Europol is vital to Frontex's contribution to the fight against human trafficking and smuggling.

The Council will be updated on a draft regulation updating the establishment of a network of immigration liaison officers, with a view to reaching agreement between Council and Parliament before the end of the Belgian presidency. The amended regulation is intended to strengthen the EU's capacity to address illegal migration, and seeks to achieve greater benefit from Immigration Liaison Officer (ILO) networks for Frontex and the Commission. The UK supports the content of this proposal, and welcomes its aims to strengthen Frontex and to enhance partnership working within the EU (and with other international partners) to tackle illegal migration. However, we do not agree with the current interpretation of the UK's legal participation and will look to protect the UK's right to opt in.

Next the Council will discuss the sixth report of the Commission on the maintenance of visa requirements. Regulation 539/2001 as amended (the Common Visa List) aims to establish reciprocity with non-EU countries which continue to impose a visa requirement on the nationals of some EU member states for stays of under 90 days (although those member states do not impose the visa requirement on nationals of those non-EU countries). The UK will not be affected by changes to the regulation of the Common Visa List however; will maintain an interest in all visa issues, and notably issues relating to full reciprocity for third-country nationals.

Following Mixed Committee, the Council will receive a progress report on those dossiers being prioritised by the Belgian presidency under the Common European Asylum System: the extension of the long-term residents directive to beneficiaries of international protection, the qualification directive, Eurodac, Dublin and the establishment of the European Asylum Support Office. The UK Government believe that the challenges that Europe faces in the asylum field are better addressed by practical co-operation than by further legislation. We need to work with those member states that are under pressure to help them improve their asylum systems and deal with the claims they receive. In particular, the EU needs to provide properly co-ordinated support to help Greece implement reforms to its asylum system. We see the new European Asylum Support Office as playing a crucial role in this work and will play an active role in the office's development.

Over lunch Interior Ministers will receive an update from the Belgian Minister for Immigration on recent visits to Cyprus, Malta and Greece and have a discussion on solidarity in the field of immigration and asylum.

After lunch the Council will have a discussion on the creation and implementation of an EU policy cycle on organised crime (Project Harmony), which presents a pragmatic, intelligence-led approach to prioritising and tackling agreed threats caused by serious organised crime. The UK, having been a project partner in this initiative since its creation, supports these conclusions as we believe key benefits to the UK include greater opportunity to influence the EU agenda on organised crime; the potential alignment of EU funds to support operational delivery; and as a result greater commitment of member states to work collaboratively to tackle the agreed prioritised threats.

The presidency will seek a firm political steer on the way forward for implementation of the Prum Council Decisions. The Council will acknowledge that obstacles are not only technical in nature but also political and linked to financial and human resources. The Council will also consider recommendations for practical solutions, through the provision of technical assistance, the use of EU funding, and a streamlined evaluation process.

The Commission will present their annual report on the European Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction (EMCDDA) which is due to be published on 10 November.

Under AOB the Commission will present their initiative for a regulation on the marketing and use of explosives. The regulation proposes to limit access by the general public to specific chemicals that can be used to manufacture home-made explosives by restricting their use and possession above set concentration thresholds. The UK will seek to negotiate changes to the text and it is expected that the proposal will go for Council approval in the middle of 2011.

The presidency has also placed the Prague process-building migration partnerships as an AOB item at the request of Hungary. The intention of the process is to implement strengthened practical and operational co-operation with main countries of transit and origin based on the global approach to migration—specifically the Eastern migration route, which includes Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia. We support the Prague process and welcome the valuable results it has achieved, it is a good example of how we can turn our policies into practical action.

The Justice day will commence with a Commission presentation on a proposal for a directive regarding measures against new forms of cybercrime, including large-scale cyber-attacks. The UK takes the issue of cybercrime very seriously and recognises that it is an international problem. The UK is keen to work with other member states to ensure that there can be an effective response to cybercrime in the EU. We are considering whether to opt in.

There will be an orientation debate on the European Investigation Order (EIO) which is a draft directive aimed at streamlining the system of mutual legal assistance between participating EU member states to discuss broad issues relating to the EIO including grounds on which an EIO could be refused. In particular, the Council will be asked to give a steer on the grounds for refusal which should apply; the UK will argue strongly that proportionality must be a consideration. Detailed work will then continue at working group level.

There will be an information point on the letter of rights to information in criminal proceedings. This is the second measure in the road map to strengthen procedural rights in criminal proceedings and it aims to set common minimum standards and improve the rights of suspects and accused persons by ensuring that they receive information about their rights. The UK has opted in to this measure.

During lunch Justice Ministers will discuss judicial co-operation in cross-border regions in the light of responses to a questionnaire submitted to member states. The questionnaire and the debate are aimed at improving the knowledge about the different forms of international co-operation between borders. The UK's experience of co-operation in cross-border regions is limited to that between the borders of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Equality Commission for Northern Ireland

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I am pleased to announce the appointment of four new Commissioners to the Equality Commission for Northern Ireland. Fidelma Carolan, Milton Kerr, Stephen McIlveen and Liam Maskey will take up office on 8 November 2010.

The Equality Commission is a key institution of the Belfast agreement and plays a vital role in protecting and promoting equality for all members of the diverse society in Northern Ireland. The Commission is now facing new challenges, not least in fulfilling its remit in a testing economic environment.

I am confident that the four new Commissioners bring a wealth of knowledge, skills and understanding, helping the Commission to meet the challenges ahead and build on its considerable achievements over the last 11 years.

Billy Wright Inquiry

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): On 14 September 2010 I made a statement to this House, publishing the report of the Billy Wright inquiry. The report made three specific recommendations that should be applied to the Northern Ireland Prison Service (NIPS).

In my statement of 14 September, I informed the House that I intended to meet with the Northern Ireland Justice Minister, David Ford, in the week following the publication of the inquiry's report to discuss the recommendations made by Lord MacLean and his panel. In addition to this meeting I have also discussed the matter with the Justice Minister more recently. Although prisons issues are now, in the main, a devolved matter, it is right that I keep the House informed of progress in regard to the report's recommendations.

I have now received correspondence from the Justice Minister updating me on progress made in relation to the recommendations and providing me with documentation relating to NIPS' response to the recommendations made in the inquiry's report. A copy has been placed in the Library of the House.

To summarise, in response to the first recommendation relating to the retention of records by NIPS, I am advised that steps have been taken in recent years to provide assurances regarding the retention and disposal of hard copy and electronic files. Details can be found in annex B of the documentation placed in the Library of the House. I am content that this recommendation has been satisfactorily complied with, as I believe is the Justice Minister.

In response to the second recommendation requiring NIPS to satisfy themselves that any relevant lessons from HMP Maze have been learned for HMP Maghaberry, the summary of a recent audit undertaken by the NIPS, and the steps being taken as a result, can be found at annex C of the documentation placed in the Library of the House. Remedial activities will include both physical infrastructure, where it is operationally required, and updating of certain policies and guidance.

The third recommendation invites the Justice Minister to consider whether a process similar to the Patten Commission on policing for Northern Ireland might pave the way for radical change in the way NIPS is managed and how its industrial relations are conducted. I am informed by the Justice Minister that his statement to the Assembly on 21 June 2010—the text of which can be found at annex D of the documentation placed in the Library of the House—relating to a fundamental review of the conditions of detention, management and oversight of all prisons, carried out by an independent team, fulfils the panel's third recommendation. The Justice Minister also advises me that a strategic efficiency and effectiveness programme is being taken forward by the senior management of NIPS in consultation with the three staff associations. Annex E of the documentation placed in the Library of the House summarises the remit of this programme.

I am grateful to the Justice Minister and the Northern Ireland Prison Service for providing me with this information and I commend their promptness in addressing these important recommendations.

Independent Monitoring Commission Report

The Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (Mr Owen Paterson): I have received the 25th report of the Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC), on levels of paramilitary activity in Northern Ireland. The IMC conclude that dissident groups continue to pose a substantial and potentially lethal threat, particularly against members of the security forces. I am today laying the report before Parliament.

The Independent Monitoring Commission (IMC) was established jointly by the British and Irish Governments in 2004 to help in the process of making the transition in Northern Ireland to a peaceful society and stable and inclusive devolved Government in Northern Ireland. In paragraph 1.5 of their 25th report the Commission refer to comments in previous reports on the

> "implications for the continuation of the IMC of the peace process drawing to a close and more normal arrangements for security and the administration of justice taking over, since when we have had the devolution of policing and justice".

Since they were formally established in 2004 they have prepared 20 reports on paramilitary activity and five reports on security normalisation in Northern Ireland. Over that period there have been significant changes in the political and security landscape in Northern Ireland.

In July 2005 the Provisional IRA announced an end to their armed campaign and in September 2005 the Independent International Commission on

Decommissioning (IICD) reported that the Provisional IRA had decommissioned all the arms within its control. In May 2007 the Ulster Volunteer Force made a statement renouncing violence and in June 2009 the Ulster Defence Association also issued a statement announcing that the struggle had ended. On 25 February 2010 the IICD reported to the British and Irish Governments that it had overseen the decommissioning of all the arms within the control of the UDA, UVF, Official IRA and the Irish National Liberation Army.

The Government's security normalisation programme, including the conclusion of the military's Operation Banner, was completed and reported on in the IMC's 16th report.

In parallel with this programme of security normalisation, we have seen the political process firmly embedded in Northern Ireland. Devolution was restored on 8 May 2007 and devolved Government has now been up and running for the longest continuous period since 1972. Locally elected politicians from Northern Ireland are now responsible for making decisions about the issues that really matter to the people of Northern Ireland—jobs, health, education and the environment—and since 12 April 2010, policing and justice. In their last several reports the IMC have consistently assessed that, with the exception of some residual terrorist groups, the leaderships of paramilitary groups remain committed to the political process and to transforming their organisations.

The IMC have played a crucial part in supporting and enabling the historic changes that we have seen in Northern Ireland over the last 12 years. Although there remain those who have rejected peace and politics and who actively work to undermine it, Northern Ireland has made the transition to stable, local democracy and the job of the IMC is nearing completion. The two Governments have, therefore, asked the IMC to prepare one more final report on their work, including lessons learned. After that, we will bring the IMC arrangements to an end. I would like to place on record my thanks to the IMC for their work and their contribution to the developments that have taken place over the last six years.

There is a continuing public interest in ensuring that the public are informed about the threat from Northern Ireland-related terrorism. Once we have received and considered the IMC's final report, the British and Irish Governments will do what is necessary to ensure that need is met.

Petitions

Tuesday 2 November 2010

OBSERVATIONS

HEALTH

Archway Centre (Walsall)

The Petition of friends and users of the Archway Centre, Walsall,

Declares that the Petitioners object to the cutting by Re-think of funds and resources at the Archway Centre, Walsall, which has already led to the closure of food services at the centre—a vital service for many users who find it difficult to cook for themselves; notes that the Petitioners believe that the intention is to reduce the number of drop in sessions and to send service users out into the community, but the community is not qualified and does not have the facilities to deal with people who have mental health problems; and further notes that cuts to the funding of the Archway Centre may lead to more people relying on the services of the mental health team in Walsall and an increase in admissions to Dorothy Pattison Hospital.

The Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urge the Government to take all possible steps to ensure that the Archway Centre, Walsall, receives adequate funding.

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Valerie Vaz, Official Report,* 12 October 2010; Vol. 516, c. 302.]

[P000864]

Observations from the Secretary of State for Health:

The issues raised in the petition are local matters and my Department will bring these issues to the attention of NHS West Midlands.

I am advised that NHS Walsall and Walsall Council have been reviewing jointly commissioned local mental health day services. Following consultation on proposed changes, a report was presented to the Walsall Social Care and Inclusion Scrutiny and Performance Panel on 7 October 2010. The Scrutiny Panel was satisfied that due process had been carried out and accepted the recommendations of the report.

JUSTICE

Islamic Burial Space

The Petition of the people of Croydon and South London,

Declares that there is a severe shortage of burial space for the Islamic community the Petitioners therefore request that the House of Commons urges the Government to take steps to secure such burial space

And the Petitioners remain, etc.—*[Presented by Mr Andrew Pelling, Official Report,* 23 February 2010; Vol. 506, c. 270.]

[P000738]

Observations from the Secretary of State, Ministry of Justice:

The Government understand the importance for Muslim communities, as for many others, of having local, affordable, burial space for their use. The Government also recognise that there may be shortages of burial space in some areas, particularly in the larger conurbations.

It is a function of local communities to provide the burial space they need, either through the local council as a burial authority, or by local private, religious or charitable organisations. Such bodies are best placed to determine demand for burial space, and where and how such space may best be provided, having regard to any special requirements for particular religious or other local communities, and competing demands for available land. There are many fine examples of cemetery provision throughout London, either serving particular local communities as a whole or dedicated for use by particular faiths. A number of sites have been developed in recent years, including for use by the Muslim community. The Government have no plans to alter such arrangements.

As far as Croydon and south London are concerned, the Government understand that the London Borough of Croydon is considering the provision of additional burial space for its residents, and in doing so has consulted widely with interested organisations including representatives from the Muslim community. It is for Croydon Council to decide how it wishes to proceed, but it appears that it has the needs of the Muslim community in mind. However, any other organisation may also seek to provide burial space for the community as a whole, or specific sectors within it, subject to planning permission in the usual way.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 25 October 2010

WALES

Departmental Interns

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how many interns her Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid at the rate of the national minimum wage or above. [17204]

Mr David Jones: No interns have been engaged in the last 12 months.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18402]

Mr David Jones: In the past 12 months the Wales Office has spent £457 on overseas visits for senior staff.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18404]

David Mundell: In 2009-10, no Scotland Office officials undertook overseas trips on departmental business, other than to accompany Scotland Office Ministers. £725.65 was spent on overseas visits for senior officials in that capacity.

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland pursuant to the statement of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 155-57, on higher education and student finance, whether he *(a)* has had and *(b)* plans to have discussions with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the implications for the block grant to Scotland of the Government's policy on higher education in England. [18589]

Michael Moore: The block grant for Scotland was set out in the spending review on 20 October. It is for the Scottish Government to determine what funding they allocate to devolved areas such as higher education and student finance.

TRANSPORT

Boats: Licensing

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether boatmasters working on the River Thames who fail the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's compulsory re-test will be entitled to claim compensation for the loss of livelihood; and what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials in the Department for Work and Pensions on the position of such boatmasters. [18612]

Mike Penning: The arrangements for the re-issue of Boatmaster Licences (BML) following revalidation do not provide for any compensation in relation to any losses that a boatmaster may incur as a result of his or her failure to fulfil statutory requirements. This includes boatmasters who now need to submit to an oral assessment of local knowledge to whom the Maritime and Coastguard Agency had previously issued a BML, under the 2006 regulations, based on "Grandfather Rights".

No meetings have taken place with either Ministers or officials in the Department for Work and Pensions on the position of such boatmasters.

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether boatmasters working on the River Thames will be able to remain in service if they hold a licence valid until the end of 2011, irrespective of the outcome of the Maritime and Coastguard Agency's compulsory re-test. [18613]

Mike Penning: A boatmaster working on the Thames will be able to remain in service until the expiry of his or her current licence, regardless of whether he or she passes or fails the oral assessment associated with the Port of London Local Knowledge Endorsement for the revalidation of a Boatmaster's Licence (BML).

Buckshaw Village Station: Repairs and Maintenance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects works at Buckshaw Village Train Station will commence; when the station is scheduled to open; and how many trains are planned to stop there each day. [18662]

Mrs Villiers: Work is expected to begin on the new station in November 2010 and Network Rail estimates that it could be operational in autumn 2011. The station will see three train services an hour in each direction: two Northern services (Blackpool North to Manchester Victoria, and Preston to Hazel Grove) and one TransPennine Express service (Blackpool North to Manchester airport).

Bus Services: Bedfordshire

Andrew Selous: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 417W, on rapid transport systems: Bedfordshire, what the name is of each private sector contributor to the Luton Dunstable Guided Busway; and how much each contributed. [19430]

Norman Baker: The private sector contributors to the Luton Dunstable Guided Busway are as follows:

Contributor	*Description*	*Amount (£000)*
Explore Investments	Developers of Napier Park/Stirling Place	3,000
ASDA	For land at ASDA store in Dunstable. Land owned by McLagan Investments and leased to ASDA	230
Laing Homes	For retaining wall to rear of Chiltern Park housing development	90
McCann Homes	For pedestrian/cycle link between housing development off Leicester Road and Chaul End Lane	40
Lionsgate Properties	For pedestrian link between housing development on Dukeminster estate in Dunstable and White Lion retail park	20
Bellway Homes	From Station Road housing development in Dunstable	20
Total	—	3,400

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many statutory duties were placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [17019]

Norman Baker: 98 statutory duties relating to transport have been placed on local authorities since 1997 by primary legislation introduced by the Department for Transport (created in 2002) and its predecessors. A list of these duties has been placed in the Libraries of the House. An answer which also included secondary legislation could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Driving Tests: Birmingham

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many driving tests were conducted at *(a)* Wednesbury, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Kingstanding test centre in (i) each of the last three years and (ii) the most recent period for which figures are available; and what proportion of candidates (A) passed and (B) failed tests taken at those centres. [19176]

Mike Penning: The number of driving tests conducted at *(a)* Wednesbury, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Kingstanding test centre in (i) each of the last three full financial years and (ii) for April to September 2010; along with the number of tests (A) passed and (B) failed at those centres can be found in the following tables.

	Car			*Motorcycle (single test)*		
	Total	*% pass*	*% fail*	*Total*	*% pass*	*% fail*
2007-08						
Birmingham (Kingstanding)	10,219	40.7	59.3	329	70.2	29.8
Wednesbury	9,010	32.8	67.2	—	—	—
Wolverhampton	11,458	46.5	53.5	721	67.8	32.2
2008-09						
Birmingham (Kingstanding)	11,692	40.2	59.8	415	68.4	31.6
Wednesbury	10,217	34.9	65.1	—	—	—
Wolverhampton	10,717	48.0	52.0	1,037	72.0	28.0

	Car			*Motorcycle (single test)*			*Motorcycle (module 1)*			*Motorcycle (module 2)*		
	Total	*% pass*	*% fail*	*Total*	*% pass*	*% fail*	*Total*	*% pass*	*% fail*	*Total*	*% pass*	*% fail*
2009-10												
Birmingham (Kingstanding)	10,859	39.2	60.8	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wednesbury	8,102	37.4	62.6	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wolverhampton closed 30 March 2010	6,992	47.9	52.1	80	77.5	22.5	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wolverhampton MPTC opened 25 October 2009	3,776	47.5	52.5	—	—	—	282	57.1	42.9	210	80.5	19.5

	Car			*Motorcycle (module 1)*			*Motorcycle (module 2)*		
	Total	*% pass*	*% fail*	*Total*	*% pass*	*% fail*	*Total*	*% pass*	*% fail*
1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010									
Birmingham (Kingstanding)	5,357	38.1	61.9	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wednesbury	5,302	37.2	62.8	—	—	—	—	—	—
Wolverhampton MPTC opened 25 October 2009	4,897	49.9	50.1	723	57.8	42.2	489	70.6	29.4

High Speed Trains

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications his Department has received to its Exceptional Hardship Scheme in respect of the proposed High Speed Two rail link; and if he will make a statement. [19279]

Mr Philip Hammond: As of 21 October 2010, the HS2 Exceptional Hardship Scheme had received 73 applications.

M4: Bus Lanes

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what modelling studies his Department undertook when developing its proposals to suspend the M4 bus lane; and what assessment he has made of *(a)* the average reduction in journey time for private motor vehicles and *(b)* the effect on journey time for bus lane users consequent on the suspension of the lane. [16735]

Mike Penning: The performance of the M4 London bound carriageway under current traffic flows has been modelled by the Highways Agency using specialist (Paramics) computer software.

Early analysis shows:

(a) an average reduction in journey times for cars of 7% during the morning peak, with slightly greater savings during the evening peak;

(b) no significant effect on journey time for current bus lane users.

Traffic flows will be monitored during the experimental order period to validate these predictions.

Merchant Shipping

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to conclude his review of the Merchant Shipping (Ship-to-Ship Transfers) Regulations 2010; and if he will make a statement. [19278]

Mike Penning: The closing date for the receipt of responses to the review was 30 September. I am now considering the representations which have been made to me.

I shall announce the outcome of the review to the House at the earliest opportunity.

Railway Stations: North East

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether Network Rail plans to open new train stations in the North East region. [18664]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is not aware of any plans for Network Rail to open new train stations in the North East region. We understand that Tees Valley Regeneration proposes to build new stations at Durham Tees Valley airport, Wilton, and James Cook hospital, subject to a suitable funding source being identified.

Railways

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the benefits of new high speed rail lines for communities beyond the reach of each proposed route. [18925]

Mr Philip Hammond: The benefits arising from, firstly, through-services running off a London to West Midlands line on to the West Coast Main Line, and, secondly, of released capacity for destinations around and beyond the line are included in the detailed business case work undertaken by HS2 Ltd in its report published in March 2010. This work is available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd

A wider high speed rail network would have the potential to offer still more significant benefits of this nature.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* carbon dioxide emissions consequent on the construction of the London to Birmingham High Speed 2 rail line and *(b)* contribution of the proposed High Speed 2 rail line to the Government's carbon reduction targets. [16900]

Mr Philip Hammond: High speed rail has an important role to play in the creation of a low carbon economy and in contributing to the meeting of our carbon reduction targets.

Estimates of the carbon dioxide emissions arising from the construction (i.e. embedded carbon) of HS2 are set out in HS2 Ltd's December 2009 report and supporting documents. Total embedded carbon emissions are estimated at 1.2MtCO_2, within a range of +0.29MtCO_2 to +2.12MtCO_2. This currently amounts to less than 1% of a single year's emissions from transport.

HS2 Ltd has estimated that the overall carbon impact of a new London-West Midlands high speed line would be broadly neutral. These impacts should be considered alongside the new line's economic benefits and, in particular, its capacity to cater for additional demand for inter-urban transport caused by long-term economic growth and to improve journey times between key economic centres. Looked at in the round, I do not believe that any other option can offer the same balance of environmental and economic benefits as high speed rail.

Railways: Fares

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will assess the potential effects of raising the existing cap on annual increases for train fares on the number of people commuting by train between Brighton and Hove and London. [18901]

Mrs Villiers: We have announced that the fares policy from 2 January 2011 will be RPI+1%, then RPI+3% applied for the following three years. Although passenger growth slowed during the economic downturn, the resumption of economic growth has seen passenger numbers increasing and we expect this trend to continue.

Railways: Finance

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what proportion of the costs of High Speed 2 he expects to be met from European Union funds. [18587]

Mr Philip Hammond: In considering their approach to the funding of a new high speed network, one of the Government's objectives will be to ensure that third party funding contributions are maximised. This may include contributions from European Union funding streams, in particular the Trans-European Networks programme, under which the Government expect funding for high speed rail projects to be a priority. However, it is unlikely that the level of European Union funding available will be sufficient to cover more than a small proportion of the overall costs of any new high speed line.

Thameslink

Kelvin Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the number of *(a)* additional peak-time passengers to be transported and *(b)* passenger hours to be saved as a result of the completion of the Thameslink programme. [17931]

Mrs Villiers: The appraisal of the Thameslink programme forecasts that by 2026 there will be an additional 30,000 passengers carried on Thameslink services in each three-hour peak period. This equates to an overall saving of 18,500 passenger hours over each three-hour peak period.

West Coast Main Line

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what information his Department holds on projected passenger numbers on the West Coast Main Line until 2020. [16825]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold projected passenger numbers for the West Coast Main Line to 2020.

The 'High Speed Two Baseline Forecasting Report' projects an increase in passenger demand on the West Coast franchise from 7.7 million passenger miles in 2008 to 12.6 million passenger miles in 2021, an increase of 64%.

The report is available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/appraisalmaterial/pdf/baselinereport.pdf

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Air Pollution: Heathrow Airport

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to meet EU air quality targets at Heathrow and in the surrounding area. [18333]

Richard Benyon: EU air quality limits for all air pollutants except nitrogen dioxide (NO_2) are met at Heathrow and the surrounding area. Road transport is a major source of this pollutant and meeting the EU limits for NO_2 in the required timescales around the airport will be challenging, though concentrations of this pollutant are higher in Central London.

The Government are committed to working towards EU air quality limits and like most other member states plans to use the provisions in the Air Quality Directive which permit until 2015 to meet the limits. DEFRA is working closely with the Department for Transport, the airport operator (BAA), the Mayor of London, and local authorities to develop and implement measures to help meet NO_2 limits as soon as possible.

Animal Housing: Animal Welfare

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment her Department has made of the effect on small sanctuaries of the definition of a zoo set out in the Zoo Licensing Act 1981. [18666]

Richard Benyon: The Act defines a zoo as an establishment where wild animals are kept for exhibition to the public and which is open for seven or more days in a year. It covers a wide range of animal collections, from large traditional zoos to butterfly gardens, and the Department's assessment is that sanctuaries may fall within the definition. The Act provides that where small numbers of animals are kept, or where the collection has only a small number of different species, dispensations can be made which reduce the inspection requirements for those establishments. In some cases, collections can be exempted from the provisions of the Act entirely.

Local authorities have responsibility for implementing the Act, including for assessing collections and the application of the Act to them.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in her Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18756]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is not held centrally and can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for how many days on average her Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18571]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the average number of working days lost through sickness by grade equivalent in DEFRA and its Agencies in 2009-10

Grade	*AWDL*
AA	13.3
AO	11.5
EO	7.6

Grade	*AWDL*
HEO	5.3
SEO	3.7
Grade 7	4.3
Grade 6	5.1
SCS	1.5
All grades	7.8

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18759]

Richard Benyon: The information requested could be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Diversified Farm Businesses

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what information her Department holds on the number of its staff who have operated diversified farm businesses. [18939]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA does not hold a central register of this information and it is not certain whether this information exists at local level. Gathering local management information could be done only at a disproportionate cost to the Department.

Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by her Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if she will make a statement. [18195]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is taking equality into account in its work in response to the spending review. Equality impact assessments will be published in the normal course of business alongside any decisions on specific policies taken subsequently. This is in line with the Government's intention that fairness will be a key feature of our approach to meeting the fiscal challenges that we face as a nation.

Farmers: Bankruptcy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of farmers who applied for bankruptcy in each of the last five years. [18393]

Mr Paice: Information on bankruptcies of individuals and company liquidations in England and Wales is reported for agriculture, hunting and forestry as a whole.

Bankruptcies and liquidations in agriculture, hunting and forestry, UK

	2008	*2009*
Trading-related bankruptcies of individuals	147	198
Company liquidations (both compulsory and creditors' voluntary)	65	73

Note:
Data are not available on a consistent basis before 2008 because of changes to the classification system. Information for England and Wales is not published separately. Equivalent data for Scotland are only available for company liquidations (there were three in each of 2008 and 2009). Equivalent data for Northern Ireland are not available. More information can be found at:
http://www.insolvency.gov.uk/otherinformation/statistics/insolv.htm
Source:
Insolvency Service

Farmers: Income

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate her Department has made of the level and proportion of income for farmers that is expected to come from *(a)* single farm payments, *(b)* agri-environment schemes and *(c)* diversified activity in each of the next five years. [18395]

Mr Paice: The Department does not make forecasts for future years of the contributions to Farm Business Income arising from single farm payments, agri-environment schemes and diversified activity. 2008-09 is the most recent year for which data on farm business income by 'cost centre', including from single farm payment, agri-environment schemes and diversified activity, are available. This is shown in the following table for all farm types. More detailed figures by farm type can be found in Farm Accounts in England (Table 5) available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/farmaccounts/2009/

Table 1: Average farm business income by 'cost centre' (£ per farm), England 2008-09, all farm types

	Farm business income (£/farm)
Agriculture	17,700
Agri-environment and other payments	4,900
Diversification out of agriculture	5,300
Single Payment Schemes	23,000
Total (Farm Business Income)	[1]50,900

[1] Income from the 'cost centres' may not sum to the total due to rounding.
Source:
Farm Business Survey

Figures of total farm business income by farm type for 2009-10 will be published on 28 October 2010. This will be further broken down by 'cost centre' to provide the breakdown by single farm payment, agri-environment schemes and diversified activity when published in Farm Accounts in England on 16 December 2010. Both publications will be available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/

Food: Labelling

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will take steps to promote the introduction of a country of origin labelling regime for meat and fish products to provide that a single country of origin may be cited only if the animal was born, reared and slaughtered in one country; [18852]

(2) what steps she is taking to introduce mandatory country of origin labelling for *(a)* all fresh meat products and *(b)* the meat ingredient in processed meat and fish products; and if she will make a statement. [18853]

Mr Paice: Discussions are continuing on an EU food information regulation that includes new rules on origin labelling. There are calls to extend mandatory origin labelling and the UK is playing an active role in the debate so as to ensure consumers are provided with accurate and meaningful information. We are also discussing with the food industry ways in which they can voluntarily provide more and clearer origin information to assist consumers.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions her Department has had with supermarkets and food companies on food labelling policy. [18938]

Mr Paice: The Secretary of State and I regularly meet major food retailers and trade associations representing all sectors of the food industry supply chain to discuss a range of issues including food labelling. In line with DEFRA's Structural Reform Plan, we are in discussions with key bodies in the food chain about ways in which food businesses can provide more and clearer information on food origin, particularly for meat and dairy products.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she made of the cost to her Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [18754]

Richard Benyon: The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. The Department takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations. An accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Natural England: Manpower

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed by Natural England in 2009-10; and at what cost to the public purse. [19188]

Richard Benyon: The following information on staff numbers and costs in 2009-10 has been extracted from Natural England's 2009-10 Annual Report and Accounts, which are available at:

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/annualreports/default.aspx

Staff numbers 2009-10

	Average number of whole-time equivalent persons employed during the year
Permanent staff	2,413
Temporary and contract staff	223
Total staff numbers	2,636

Staff costs 2009-10

	£
Permanent staff salaries	93,200,000
Agency, temporary staff and inward secondees	3,260,000
Total staff costs	96,460,000

Public Bodies: Reform

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the reconstitution of the Darwin Advisory Committee as a committee of experts in each of the next five years; [18353]

(2) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Commons Commissioners in each of the next five years; [18354]

(3) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Committee on Agricultural Valuation in each of the next five years; [18355]

(4) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Commission for Rural Communities in each of the next five years; [18356]

(5) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the reconstitution of the Air Quality Expert Group as a committee of experts in each of the next five years; [18357]

(6) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Animal Health and Welfare Strategy England Implementation Group in each of the next five years; [18358]

(7) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Committee in each of the next five years; [18359]

(8) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales in each of the next five years; [18360]

(9) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees in each of the next five years; [18361]

(10) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the reconstruction of the Advisory Committee on Pesticides as a committee of experts; [18362]

(11) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the reconstitution of the Advisory Committee on Packaging as a committee of experts in each of the next five years; [18363]

(12) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the abolition of the Advisory Committee on Organic Standards in each of the next five years; [18364]

(13) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the reconstitution of the Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances as a committee of experts in each of the next five years; [18365]

(14) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the abolition of Food from Britain in the next five financial years; [18374]

(15) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the abolition of the Inland Waterways Advisory Council in the next five financial years; [18375]

(16) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the reconstitution of the National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources as a committee of experts in the next five financial years; [18376]

(17) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the reconstitution of the Pesticide Residues Committee as a committee of experts in the next five financial years; [18377]

(18) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the abolition of the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution in the next five financial years; [18378]

(19) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the abolition of the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee in the next five financial years; [18379]

(20) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the reconstitution of the Veterinary Residues Committee as a committee of experts in the next five financial years; [18380]

(21) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse arising from the reconstitution of the Zoos Forum as a committee of experts in the next five financial years; [18381]

(22) what estimate she has made of the potential savings to the public purse of the reconstitution of the Farm Animal Welfare Council as a committee of experts in the next five financial years; [18389]

(23) what estimate she has made of the likely savings to the public purse of the abolition of the Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards in the next five financial years. [18390]

Richard Benyon: Estimates we have made of savings to the public purse from changes to DEFRA's arm's length bodies over each of the next five years are given in the following table.

The timescale for implementing the decisions on arm's length bodies announced by my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, will vary for each body and depend on legislative or administrative processes.

The proposed changes to DEFRA's arm's length bodies will contribute modest savings. The main benefits of the arm's length bodies reform proposals are to increase their transparency and accountability. Where bodies are to be reconstituted as expert committees we do not envisage significant financial savings to be generated.

The 2011-12 budgets for the new committees have not been agreed and will be fixed in the light of the Government's spending review.

Body	*Saving to public purse over each of the next five years*
Advisory Committee on Hazardous Substances	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Advisory Committee on Organic Standards	c£40,000 per year
Advisory Committee on Packaging	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Advisory Committee on Pesticides	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Agricultural Dwelling House Advisory Committees	c£13,000 per year
Agricultural Wages Board for England and Wales	Negligible—changes to include agricultural workers within the scope of national minimum wage legislation expected to be cost neutral
Agricultural Wages Committee	c£10,000 per year
Air Quality Expert Group	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Animal Health and Welfare Strategy England Implementation Group	Not applicable—body already dissolved
Commission for Rural Communities	c£4.5 million of savings per year from 2011-12 but final figure to be determined through the spending review
Committee on Agricultural Valuation	Negligible—Committee has not sat for over 10 years
Commons Commissioners	Negligible—work of the Commons Commissioners has concluded
Darwin Advisory Committee	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Expert Panel on Air Quality Standards	Not applicable—body already dissolved
Farm Animal Welfare Council	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Food from Britain	Not applicable—body already dissolved
Inland Waterways Advisory Council	c£200,000 per year
National Standing Committee on Farm Animal Genetic Resources	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Pesticide Residues Committee	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts
Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution	c£300,000 per year
Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee	Negligible—functions to be transferred to Department of Health
Veterinary Residues Committee	Negligible—to be reconstituted as a committee of experts

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-06, on public bodies reform, what estimate she has made of the number of employees to be *(a)* redeployed or relocated and *(b)* released from their contracts as a result of the abolition or reconstitution of each public body within her Department's area of responsibility so designated in the statement. [18341]

Richard Benyon: No estimate has yet been made of the number of employees *(a)* to be redeployed or relocated, or *(b)* to be released from their contracts as a result of the abolition or reconstitution of each affected public body within DEFRA's area of responsibility.

DEFRA will work closely with those delivery bodies affected by the announcement on 14 October 2010, with other Departments, devolved Authorities and other bodies to determine which aspects of work will need to continue, and to identify those employees in scope to be either redeployed and/or relocated, or to be released from their contracts.

Rural Communities: Comprehensive Spending Review

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the nature of rural communities is reflected in the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [18937]

Richard Benyon: It is the responsibility of every Government Department to ensure that the needs and interests of rural people, businesses and communities are addressed fairly in the Spending Review. DEFRA has supported this by providing each Department with guidance to assist them in carrying out analysis of whether rural and urban communities will be affected in different ways by spending decisions, and by providing Her Majesty's Treasury with advice to help it identify potential adverse rural impacts of these decisions. DEFRA officials will continue to assist Departments in understanding the likely rural impacts as the Spending Review is implemented.

Water Charges

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) if she will assess the feasibility of a national social tariff for water charges; [18508]

(2) what discussions she has had with Ofwat on a national social tariff for water charges. [18510]

Richard Benyon: In the final report of her independent Review of charging for household water and sewerage services, Anna Walker made a range of recommendations on water affordability generally, and more specifically in relation to affordability issues in the South West.

As recommended by Anna Walker, Ofwat is looking into the specific South West recommendations. I have met with Ofwat to discuss its initial findings, and we are awaiting its final advice ahead of public consultation on this and other key issues raised in the Walker Review.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment he has made of the likely effectiveness of the Government's strategy in Helmand province to December 2014. [18598]

Alistair Burt: Our objectives in Helmand province are closely co-ordinated with coalition partners and the Government of Afghanistan and are set out in the jointly-agreed Helmand Plan. Progress will continue to be monitored on a quarterly basis. We are currently working with our Afghan partners to develop a joint Helmand Inteqal (Transition) Plan for the period 2011-14. This plan will be an agreed strategy for taking Helmand to the point at which full responsibility for security will transfer to the Afghans. The plan will include milestones and mechanisms for measuring its effectiveness. There is clear evidence of progress already made in Helmand over recent months, particularly in central Helmand, for example in Lashkar Gah, Nawa and Garmsir.

Azerbaijan: Foreign Relations

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent assessment is of the state of relations between the UK and Azerbaijan. [18507]

Mr Lidington: Relations between the UK and Azerbaijan are excellent. During my visit to Azerbaijan on 20-21 October I had an opportunity to discuss the expanding links between our two countries with President Aliyev and members of his government. British companies are the largest investors in Azerbaijan, and my visit supported further investment. The UK and Azerbaijan work together on a range of issues of mutual interest, including cultural exchanges.

As part of our strong relationship, we continue to remind Azerbaijan that the modern, prosperous future that it seeks would be supported by further economic and democratic reforms and peace with its neighbours. I raised this, and the importance of fair elections in November, during my visit.

Bahrain: Politics and government

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he *(a)* plans to make and *(b)* has made representations to the Kingdom of Bahrain on the forthcoming elections to the Nuwab Council. [19024]

Alistair Burt: We welcome the holding of elections in the Kingdom of Bahrain. We will be closely following the elections and look forward to working with new members of the Nuwab Council. We maintain a regular high-level dialogue with the Government of the Kingdom of Bahrain on a wide variety of issues including their political reform programme and elections.

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his most recent estimate is of the number of British citizens being held as *(a)* prisoners and *(b)* political prisoners in each country. [18433]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The following table gives the latest detainee figures which show a snap shot of British nationals in detention whom we have assisted, as of 31 March 2010. We do not hold a separate figure for political prisoners.

Half-yearly detainee figures as at 31 March 2010

Country	FCO post	Males	Female	Total
Afghanistan	Kabul	6	0	6
Albania	Tirana	3	0	3
Algeria	Algiers	1	0	1
Angola	Luanda	0	0	0
Argentina	Buenos Aires	9	3	12
Armenia	Yerevan	0	0	0
Australia	Sydney	111	3	114
	Brisbane	59	3	62
	Canberra	0	0	0
	Perth	18	2	20
	Melbourne	84	7	91
Austria	Vienna	3	1	4
Azerbaijan	Baku	1	0	1
Bahrain	Bahrain	2	0	2
Bangladesh	Dhaka	0	0	0
Barbados	Bridgetown	6	7	13
	St Vincent and the Grenadines	0	0	0
	St Kitts	1	0	1
	Antigua	5	0	5
	Grenada	1	5	6
	Dominica	1	0	1
Belarus	Minsk	0	0	0
Belgium	Brussels	12	0	12
Belize	Belmopan	0	0	0
Bolivia	La Paz	1	1	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	0	0	0
Botswana	Gaborone	0	0	0
Brazil	Brasilia	2	0	2
	Rio de Janeiro	8	4	12
	Sao Paulo	13	10	23
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	0	0	0
Bulgaria	Sofia	1	0	1
Burma	Rangoon	0	0	0
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	8	0	8
Cameroon	Yaoundé	0	0	0
Canada	Ottawa	1	0	1
	Montreal	3	0	3
	Toronto	17	1	18
	Vancouver	12	0	12
Chile	Santiago	1	0	1
China	Beijing	2	0	2
	Chongqing	0	0	0
	Shanghai	3	0	3
	Guangzhou	1	1	2
	Hong Kong	15	4	19
Colombia	Bogota	4	0	4
	Cali	0	0	0
	Cartagena	0	0	0
	Medellin	0	0	0
Congo (Democratic Rep)	Kinshasa	1	0	1
Costa Rica	San José	3	0	3
Croatia	Zagreb	1	0	1
Cuba	Havana	0	0	0
Cyprus	Nicosia	11	0	11
Czech Republic	Prague	1	0	1
Denmark	Copenhagen	3	0	3
Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	12	2	14
Ecuador	Quito	8	2	10
Egypt	Alexandria	0	0	0
	Cairo	21	3	24
Eritrea	Asmara	0	0	0
Estonia	Tallinn	2	0	2
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	3	3	6
Fiji	Suva	1	0	1
Finland	Helsinki	1	0	1
France	Bordeaux	19	0	19
	Lille	37	0	37
	Lyon	6	1	7
	Marseille	13	0	13
	Paris	55	2	57
Gambia	Banjul	1	1	2
Georgia	Tbilisi	0	0	0
Germany	Berlin	56	1	57
	Dusseldorf	46	6	52
	Munich	14	1	15
Ghana	Accra	5	0	5
Greece	Athens	13	2	15
	Corfu	0	0	0
	Heraklion	1	0	1
	Rhodes	0	0	0
	Thessaloniki	0	0	0
	Zakynthos	0	0	0
Guatemala	Guatemala City	2	0	2
Guyana	Georgetown	3	3	6
	Suriname	1	1	2
Hungary	Budapest	1	0	1
Iceland	Reykjavik	0	0	0
India	Chennai	0	0	0
	Kolkata	0	0	0
	Mumbai	4	0	4
	New Delhi	8	0	8
	Goa	2	0	2
Indonesia	Jakarta	11	0	11
Iran	Tehran	1	1	2
Iraq	Baghdad	2	0	2
Ireland	Dublin	90	11	101
Israel	Tel Aviv	1	0	1
Italy	Florence	3	0	3
	Milan	9	2	11
	Naples	7	0	7
	Venice	3	0	3
	Rome	9	2	11
Jamaica	Kingston	41	24	65
Japan	Tokyo	16	3	19
	Osaka	10	0	10
Jerusalem	Jerusalem	0	0	0
Jordan	Amman	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	Almaty	0	0	0
Kenya	Nairobi	2	0	2

Half-yearly detainee figures as at 31 March 2010

Country	*FCO post*	*Males*	*Female*	*Total*
Korea (North)	Pyongyang	0	0	0
Korea (South)	Seoul	1	0	1
Kuwait	Kuwait city	8	3	11
Latvia	Riga	1	0	1
Lebanon	Beirut	0	1	1
Libya	Tripoli	0	0	0
Lithuania	Vilnius	0	0	0
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	3	0	3
Macedonia	Skopje	0	0	0
Malawi	Lilongwe	0	0	0
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	2	0	2
Malta	Valletta	8	1	9
Mauritius	Port Louis	0	0	0
Mexico	Mexico city	0	1	1
	Cancun	0	0	0
Moldova	Chisinau	0	0	0
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	1	0	1
Montenegro	Podgorica	1	0	1
Morocco	Rabat	3	0	3
	Marrakech	0	0	0
	Tangier	6	2	8
Mozambique	Maputo	0	0	0
Namibia	Windhoek	1	0	1
Nepal	Kathmandu	1	0	1
Netherlands	Amsterdam	32	1	33
New Zealand	Wellington	7	0	7
Nigeria	Lagos	0	0	0
Norway	Oslo	30	4	34
Oman	Muscat	5	0	5
Pakistan	Islamabad	25	0	25
	Karachi	2	0	2
Panama	Panama city	8	2	10
Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	0	1	1
Peru	Lima	31	3	34
Philippines	Manila	19	0	19
Poland	Warsaw	3	0	3
Portugal	Lisbon	13	1	14
	Oporto	1	2	3
	Funchal	6	0	6
	Portimao	2	0	2
Qatar	Doha	4	0	4
Romania	Bucharest	4	0	4
Russia	Moscow	0	0	0
	St Petersburg	0	0	0
	Ekaterinburg	0	0	0
Rwanda	Kigali	0	0	0
St Lucia	Castries	4	0	4
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	3	0	3
Senegal	Dakar	3	0	3
Serbia	Belgrade	3	0	3
	Pristina	0	0	0
Seychelles	Victoria	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	Freetown	1	0	1
Singapore	Singapore	4	0	4
Slovakia	Bratislava	1	0	1
Slovenia	Ljubljana	2	0	2
Solomon Islands	Honiara	0	0	0
South Africa	Cape Town	6	1	7
	Pretoria	6	2	8
Spain	Alicante	36	2	38
	Barcelona	22	2	24
	Ibiza	9	0	9
	Las Palmas	13	0	13
	Madrid	70	8	78
	Malaga	144	5	149
	Palma	18	0	18
	Tenerife	16	1	17
Sri Lanka	Colombo	4	0	4
Sudan	Khartoum	0	0	0
Sweden	Stockholm	22	2	24
Switzerland	Berne	6	0	6
	Geneva	3	0	3
Syria	Damascus	5	1	6
Taiwan	Taipei	18	0	18
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	0	0	0
Tanzania	Dar Es Salaam	1	0	1
Thailand	Bangkok	87	1	88
	Chiang Mai	2	0	2
	Laos	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	7	7	14
Tunisia	Tunis	2	1	3
Turkey	Ankara	3	0	3
	Bodrum	3	3	6
	Istanbul	4	5	9
	Izmir	1	0	1
	Antalya	3	0	3
	Marmaris	2	0	2
	Fethiye	0	0	0
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	0	0	0
Uganda	Kampala	0	0	0
Ukraine	Kiev	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	18	1	19
	Dubai	33	3	36
USA	Atlanta	61	7	68
	Boston	31	2	33
	Chicago	32	4	36
	Houston	84	4	88
	Los Angeles	95	6	101
	New York	87	8	95
	Orlando	89	18	107
	San Francisco	79	8	87
	Washington	32	5	37
Uruguay	Montevideo	0	0	0
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	1	0	1
Venezuela	Caracas	11	3	14
Vietnam	Hanoi	1	1	2
Yemen	Sanaa	1	0	1
Zambia	Lusaka	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	Harare	0	0	0
Total	219	2,393	256	2,649

Civil Liberties : Zimbabwe

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on civil rights in Zimbabwe. [18663]

Mr Bellingham: We regularly receive reports on civil rights in Zimbabwe, from non-governmental organisations working within Zimbabwe and from our embassy in Harare. Recent examples include analyses of Zimbabwe's media and of constraints on freedom of expression during the constitutional outreach process.

We welcome the opening up of space for civil society, which remains a strong force in Zimbabwe, but are concerned that human rights abuses continue, particularly around the rule of law. Repressive legislation and limited media freedom are outstanding issues which affect all Zimbabweans. We continue to call, both bilaterally and with EU member states, for the restoration of internationally accepted civil and political rights standards in Zimbabwe.

Departmental Private Education

Gloria De Piero: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on continuity of education allowance at *(a)* Charterhouse School, *(b)* Dulwich College, *(c)* Eton College, *(d)* Harrow School, *(e)* Marlborough College, *(f)* Rugby School, *(g)* Westminster School, *(h)* Winchester College, *(i)* Cheltenham Ladies College, *(j)* Roedean School, *(k)* St Paul's School, *(l)* Fettes College and *(m)* Gordonstoun School in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [11453]

Alistair Burt: It is a condition of their employment that members of the diplomatic service must be prepared to serve anywhere in the world at any time during their career, sometimes at very short notice. Those with children have a legal obligation as parents to ensure that their children receive a full-time education from the age of five years. Most parents prefer to take their children with them abroad, but in some countries we do not permit staff to take their children either for health or security reasons. In others, local schools of an acceptable standard are not available. It is long-standing practice that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) helps staff meet their potentially conflicting obligations by providing financial support for their children's education in the UK where staff choose this, or are obliged to do so given local conditions in the country to which they are posted. Continuity of education is also an important factor, particularly at secondary level.

The FCO refunds standard term fees up to a ceiling which is reviewed annually. Staff choosing a more expensive school must pay the difference in cost themselves. The maximum amount the FCO will pay is determined by an independent survey conducted by ECA International, which is used by public and private sector employers whose staff work across the world. Various factors, including availability of places (sometimes at short notice) and proximity of other family members, influence which schools staff choose for their children. The FCO would allow staff children to attend the schools listed but would only refund fees up to the ceiling. The ceiling figure for a senior boarder for the academic year 2010-11 is £8,236 per term. All but one of the schools named in the question charge fees above the ceiling, so parents using these schools would have to contribute to the fees.

We cannot provide details of payments made in connection with specific schools. This is necessary to avoid disclosures that could identify individual members of staff and their families.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with *(a)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer and *(b)* the Secretary of State for International Development on reductions to his Department's expenditure in 2010-11. [16102]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friends the Foreign Secretary, the Chancellor of the Exchequer and the Secretary of State for International Development have discussions in the normal course of business on the work and resources of the Government overseas.

Diplomatic Immunity

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs to how many foreign *(a)* diplomatic staff and *(b)* members of the household of such staff his Department had granted diplomatic immunity on the latest date for which figures are available. [19236]

Alistair Burt: The foreign diplomatic community in the UK numbers around 25,000, inclusive of dependants.

Falkland Islands: Oil

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions Ministers in his Department have had with the government of *(a)* the Falkland Islands and *(b)* Argentina on oil exploration in the waters around the Falkland Islands. [19023]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There is a very regular dialogue between Ministers and officials and the Falkland Islands Government on oil exploration issues. I have discussed oil exploration, along with many other issues, when I have met Falkland Islands Legislative Assembly Members.

Ministers of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office have had no recent direct discussions with Argentina on oil exploration in the waters around the Falkland Islands. In 2007, Argentina chose to withdraw from a 1995 Joint Declaration on Hydrocarbons Co-operation in the South Atlantic. We remain keen to foster a constructive relationship with Argentina in the South Atlantic.

Falkland Islands: Sovereignty

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has received recent representations from the government of Argentina on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. [19022]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government of Argentina make regular protests and representations on the sovereignty of the Falkland Islands. The most recent example, dated 20 October 2010, is an Argentine reply to a United Kingdom reply to an original Argentine protest note concerning floating scientific data collecting buoys in Falkland Islands waters. While small details of the United Kingdom's responses to these representations may change, the main substance does not; the United Kingdom has no doubt about its sovereignty over the Falkland Islands, and the principle of self determination, enshrined in the UN charter, underlies this position. There can be no negotiations on sovereignty unless and until the islanders so wish.

Henderson Island

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps his Department has taken to preserve biodiversity on Henderson Island. [18856]

Mr Bellingham: The UK Government are aware of the challenges the Overseas Territories face in their responsibility to preserve their biodiversity, and we work alongside Overseas Territory Governments to provide support and assistance in areas where they need help.

On Henderson Island, the UK Government are working closely with the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds (RSPB), the Pitcairn Government and others to eradicate rats and on 18 October the RSPB announced plans to proceed with a rat eradication programme in the summer of 2011. The Overseas Territories Environment Programme has provided £188,000 of funding to RSPB since 2007 for work towards the eradication of rats from Henderson and a further £103,000 has been committed for the implementation phase. In addition to this, I recently co-hosted with the RSPB a reception in support of Henderson Island World Heritage Site, providing it with a prestigious venue to present to potential donors.

Iran: Baha'i Faith

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment his Department has made of the human rights situation of the Baha'i population in Iran. [18516]

Alistair Burt: We remain concerned for the Baha'i community in Iran. During meetings with the Iranian ambassador, I have made clear my concerns over the reduced rights and continuing harassment of members of the Baha'i community, including the imprisonment of the seven leaders of the Baha'i community. We will continue to remind Iran of the international commitments it has freely signed up to, and urge the Iranian Government to cease its harassment of the Baha'i minority, and to respect the rights of all minority groups.

Ministers: Pay

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of ministerial salaries in his Department in 2010-11. [18142]

Alistair Burt: It is estimated that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will spend £187,514 on ministerial salaries in 2010-11.

Nagorno-Karabakh

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress has been made in the OSCE Minsk Group discussions on the future of Nagorno-Karabakh. [18506]

Mr Lidington: The Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe Minsk Group continues to encourage all parties to commit to a durable, peaceful settlement of the conflict, and to reduce tensions along the Line of Contact that separates the two sides.

The Minsk Group co-chairs (from France, the US and Russia) visited Baku, Yerevan, Nagorno-Karabakh and conflict-affected parts of Azerbaijan on their recent Field Assessment Mission on 4-13 October. They used the visit to reinforce the need for increased dialogue between Armenia and Azerbaijan. The UK continues to support the work of the Minsk Group.

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether the Minister for Overseas Territories plans to visit the Pitcairn Islands in 2010-11. [18854]

Mr Bellingham: Since 2009 we have improved access to Pitcairn by providing a regular shipping service with the charter of MV Claymore. Despite this, getting to and from Pitcairn remains difficult and time-consuming. It is, therefore, unlikely that I shall be able to visit the island in 2010-11.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK relations with the Pitcairn Islands; and if he will make a statement. [18860]

Mr Bellingham: Following extensive consultation between the UK Government and the people of Pitcairn, a new governance structure was introduced in April 2009 and a new Constitution in March 2010. The Government of the Pitcairn Islands is now in better shape than before to respond to the many governance challenges it faces.

A Foreign and Commonwealth Office official is based on the island providing liaison with the Governor's Office and a sizeable community of "off-islander" professionals provide law and order, health and social welfare services. The Government provides budgetary aid of around £2 million per year—for the island population which is around 50—to cover 98% of Pitcairn's budgetary needs. The Wellington-based Governor and Deputy Governor visit at least once a year and, on her visit to the island in September 2010, our current Governor discussed with the community ongoing development work to move Pitcairn towards greater self-sustainability, including the Government's investment in a windpower project to reduce its reliance on diesel.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his international counterparts on the Pitcairn Islands. [18861]

Mr Bellingham: Our main international interlocutor in discussions regarding Pitcairn is New Zealand. My officials regularly liaise with, and are assisted by, New Zealand colleagues over a range of supply and support issues that affect Pitcairn. These include policing, the judiciary, and social welfare. Officials have also been in close contact with French and French Polynesian colleagues over medical evacuation and shipping issues. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have not been involved in any of these discussions ourselves.

Uganda: Human Rights

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on *(a)* freedom of speech in Uganda and *(b)* confiscation by the Ugandan authorities of copies of The Correct Line, Uganda under Museveni, by Dr Olive Kobusingye; and if he will make a statement. [18677]

Mr Bellingham: Freedom of expression is a right recognised by the Constitution of Uganda. I am encouraged by some reports of progress in upholding this right, including the recent abolition of the crime of sedition by the Constitutional Court of Uganda, and continuing evidence of free and lively debate in Uganda's media. But I am concerned by reports of restrictions on freedom of expression, including the impounding by the Uganda Revenue Authority at Entebbe Airport of a shipment of Dr Kobusingye's book "The Correct Line, Uganda under Museveni".

I understand that the Ugandan Minister of Internal Affairs, in a statement to the Ugandan Parliament on 19 October 2010, said that Dr Kobusingye's book had been impounded because of irregularities in the shipping documentation. This contradicted an earlier statement to Parliament by the Minister, in which he suggested that the shipment had been impounded for security reasons. I understand that part of the shipment has now been released and that Uganda's *Daily Monitor* newspaper is serialising Dr Kobusingye's book for a wide readership.

We will continue to raise the importance of upholding fundamental rights, including freedom of expression, with the Government of Uganda. This will be particularly important as Uganda prepares for presidential and parliamentary elections in 2011.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the treatment by Ugandan police of Dr Kizza Besigye on 9 June 2010; what assessment he has made of *(a)* the extent of implementation in Uganda of the 2006 recommendations of the EU and the Commonwealth on the Electoral Commission and *(b)* the prospect of free, fair and peaceful elections in Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [18675]

Mr Bellingham: On 9 June 2010, an opposition rally in Kampala led by Dr Kizza Besigye was broken up by the police. Members of a vigilante group known as the 'Kiboko Squad' assaulted Dr Besigye and other demonstrators. Members of the Kiboko Squad were arrested following the assault but were subsequently released without charge. We have raised concerns directly with the head of Uganda's police and the Ugandan Government about the activities of the Kiboko Squad. We have also raised the importance of the police balancing its responsibility to maintain order with its duty to act as an independent body that respects the freedoms of expression and assembly.

We assess that Uganda has made some progress in improving the framework for its next elections in 2011, partly in response to the recommendations of the Observation Missions to the 2006 elections. These include amendments to electoral legislation and update of the voter register. We do however retain concerns about the evenness of the playing field between Government and Opposition, and challenges to freedom of expression and assembly. It will be particularly important to the prospects for free, fair and peaceful elections in 2011 that Uganda's Electoral Commission and the Ugandan police force demonstrate their independence and competence during the campaign period and in the organisation of the polls.

We are providing a range of assistance to support democratisation in Uganda, including technical support to the Electoral Commission through a Deepening Democracy Programme funded by the Department for International Development. We will also continue to raise the importance of free, fair and peaceful elections with the Ugandan authorities and Uganda's political leaders. I did so myself with President Museveni and Professor Ogenga Latigo, the Leader of the Opposition in Parliament, when I visited Uganda in July.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs which programmes and projects he has funded to raise awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child overseas in the last five years. [18585]

Mr Jeremy Browne: There are a number of funding sources within the Foreign and Commonwealth Office which support the promotion of human rights around the world. This includes the Strategic Programme Fund for Human Rights and Democracy, which has as one of its key objectives the supporting of programmes and projects which promote the rights of the child. Many of our missions overseas use their Bilateral Programme Budget funds to promote the rights of children within their host countries. However, we do not centrally record specific child related projects that raise awareness of the convention as distinct from other objectives.

The UK also currently provides over £2.5 million in voluntary contributions to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Some of this funding is used by the Office to support its work in monitoring and implementing the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions by his Department; and what assessment he has made of the effects on the prospects for small businesses of winning contracts of such statements. [19017]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change assesses quality statements at pre-qualification and tender stages and uses these to evaluate both the ability of the company to deliver the project and any value for money implications. A wide range of suppliers including small businesses have proved themselves successful in satisfying the requirements of quality management statements.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department received bonuses and other payments in each year since the Department's inception; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18792]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008. An element of DECC's overall pay award is allocated to in year and end of year non consolidated performance awards. These payments are used to drive high performance and are paid to members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

The following table shows the number of in year performance awards (figures based on the financial year) and end of year performance awards (based on due date of 1 April (SCS) and 1 August (non SCS) each year) that were awarded and the value of the largest 20 payments in each year.

	Number of recipients receiving an in year or end of year award	*20 highest payments*
2008[1]	172	Awards ranged from 192 to £2,500 Highest 20 values were: £2,500 x 1, £1,000 x 2, £950 x 2, £750 x 11, £700 x 4
2009	672 (comprising of 362 end of year awards) for performance during 2008-09	Awards ranged from £100 to £13,500 Highest 20 values were awarded as non consolidated end of year performance awards and were: £13,500 x 1, £12,500 x 4, £12,000 x 1, £10,500 x 1, £10,000 x 12, £9,000 x 1
2010[2]	141 (comprising of 49 end of year awards) for performance during 2009-10	Awards ranged from £100 to £12,500 Highest 20 values were awarded as non consolidated end of year performance awards and were: £12,500 x 1, £10,000 x 5, £7,500 x 13, £7,000 x 1

[1] Figures only include in year awards as no end of year awards were payable by DECC for the 2008 period.

[2] Figures only include in year and SCS end of year awards as the end of year awards for non SCS staff have not yet been paid.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many senior civil service staff his Department has recruited in each year since its inception; at what cost to the public purse such recruitment was undertaken in each such year; and if he will make a statement. [17389]

Gregory Barker: DECC was created in October 2008. In 2009 we held five senior civil service open competitions at a total cost of £220,212.45.

In 2010 we held one open competition at a cost of £25,675.70.

Open competitions were held to ensure that DECC recruited the best available candidates to take forward its new remit.

Fuel Poverty: West Midlands

Chris White: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number and proportion of households in Warwick and Leamington constituency in fuel poverty where all members of the household are over the age of 65. [19295]

Gregory Barker: Sub-regional fuel poverty figures are not available split by age.

The most recently available sub-regional split of fuel poverty relates to 2006, and shows that there were around 6,600 fuel poor households across all age groups in the Warwick and Leamington constituency. This represents around 14% of all households.

Nuclear Power Stations: Insolvency

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the Government's position as operator of last resort in the event of the insolvency of a private owner of a nuclear installation. [18597]

Charles Hendry: Safety and security of nuclear installations are of paramount importance and would be key considerations for Government in the event that a nuclear operator became insolvent. The Government would of course consider each case in its specific circumstances and context.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Economic Situation: Northern Ireland

Mr Woodward: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland (1) what estimate he has made of the likely growth in the private sector of the Northern Ireland economy in each of the next three years; [19346]

(2) what estimate he has made of the likely effects on the number of jobs in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in Northern Ireland of the spending reductions announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [19347]

Mr Paterson: It is now for Northern Ireland Ministers to set their budgets following the Spending Review announcement. The impact of the Spending Review on both the public and private sectors will depend on their decisions.

We are working closely with HM Treasury and Northern Ireland Executive Ministers on our shared objective of rebalancing the Northern Ireland economy on the basis of sustained growth in the private sector, and the Treasury will be publishing a consultation paper about this later in the year.

Intelligence Services: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 516W, on the intelligence services, on what date each meeting at ministerial level was held in the last 12 months; and who attended each such meeting. [18080]

Mr Paterson: The interface between my national security responsibilities and the responsibilities of the Northern Ireland Minister of Justice is facilitated by regular meetings between us. Representatives of the PSNI also attend. They have taken place on 19 May, 18 June, 27 July and 20 September 2010. They are supplemented by ad hoc consultation and information exchange as and when required.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many officials in the Government Equalities Office have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18788]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office was established in October 2007.

Since then, three officials have been subject to disciplinary action (one in 2008; two in 2009).

No officials have been removed from post, transferred to another Department or dismissed for matters relating to their disciplinary record or performance.

No disciplinary cases have occurred in 2010.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many days the Government Equalities Office has lost to staff sickness in each year since its inception; and what estimate she made of the cost to her Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18789]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was created in October 2007 and sickness absence data for GEO as a separate Department are available from October 2008.

The total working days lost to sickness absence and the estimated cost to the Department in each successive 12-month period are as follows:

Period	*Working days lost*	*Average gross cost (£)*
October 2008 to October 2009	117	24,060
November 2009 to October 2010	160.5	32,958

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many officials in the Government Equalities Office have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since its inception. [18790]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) was created in October 2007 and sickness absence data for GEO as a separate Department are available from October 2008.

The data requested in each successive 12-month period are as follows:

Number of days	*October 2008 to October 2009*	*November 2009 to October 2010*
0-5	29	51
6-10	3	0
11-15	1	1
15-20	0	0
21-25	0	1
26-50	0	1
51-75	1	0
76-100	0	0
101-150	0	2
151-200	0	0
201+	0	0

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate she has made of the cost to the Government Equalities Office of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since its inception; and if she will make a statement. [18785]

Lynne Featherstone: No separate estimates are made of Government Equalities Office costs in these areas.

JUSTICE

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18630]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice has seven formal contracts with Capita Group plc.

The total spend with Capita Group plc by the Ministry of Justice for the first quarter (April, May, June) 2010-11 was £1,527,592.

Comprehensive Spending Review

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on HM Land Registry of the proposed reduction in his Department's budget announced in the comprehensive spending review; [19427]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the operations of the Office of the Public Guardian of the proposed reduction in his Department's budget announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [19428]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice is developing firm plans to deliver its priorities within the funding baselines announced in the spending review. We will be consulting widely on proposals for change but as yet no internal budgets have been set.

Convention on the Rights of the Child

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Commission on a British Bill of Rights will consider the extent to which children's rights under the Convention on the Rights of the Child are protected in UK law. [18584]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government will make a statement to Parliament on the scope of the Commission on a Bill of Rights in due course.

Convictions: Shoplifting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many convictions there were for offences relating to shop theft in the latest period for which figures are available. [19141]

Mr Blunt: According to data held by the Ministry of Justice, there were 72,813 defendants found guilty at all courts for offences of "stealing from shops and stalls" (shoplifting) under the Theft Act 1968 Sec 1, in England and Wales in 2009. These data, published on 21 October 2010, are the latest available.

The figure given relates to persons for whom these offences were the principal offence for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the offence selected is the one for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

Courts: Devon and Cornwall

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* caseload, *(b)* processing times and *(c)* the number of adjournments in courts in Devon and Cornwall of HM Courts Service expenditure reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30 per cent. [18829]

Mr Djanogly: The outcome of the spending review for the Ministry of Justice was announced on 20 October. No assessment has yet been made of the effects of spending reductions on courts in Devon and Cornwall. The Government are committed to ensuring that there is an efficient and effective justice system.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since its inception. [18703]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The following table provides the numbers of MoJ and National Offender Management Service—NOMS—staff that have been dismissed from March 2007 to March 2010 and the reason for dismissal.

Dismissals	*March 2007 to March 2008*	*April 2008 to March 2009*	*April 2009 to March 2010*
Capability	68	94	93
Conduct	278	182	223
Made redundant	3	32	1
Other dismissals	164	239	236

The following figures provide the numbers of NOMS staff that have been regraded, as a result of disciplinary actions. Please note that NOMS are only able to provide this data from January 2009.

From 1 January 2009 to 31 March 2009 a total of four employees were downgraded/regraded of 359 employees who underwent conduct and disciplinary proceeding.

From 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 a total of 16 employees were downgraded/regraded of 891 employees who underwent conduct and disciplinary proceeding.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18575]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The figures requested are given in the following table:

Grade	*Average sickness (days)*[1]
AA	12.3
AO	10.9
EO	8.2
HEO	6.6
SEO	6.0
G7	4.1
G6	3.9

Grade	Average sickness (days)[1]
SCS	2.9
Unknown	8.0
All grades	10.0

[1] Average working days lost to sickness per staff year. For year ending 31 March 2010.

Reducing sickness absence is a key priority for managers across MoJ and its agencies. Locally owned targets are in place for all business areas. These are supported by action plans with activities designed to tackle sickness absence through early intervention, continuing effective management of each case and encouraging staff to return to work as soon as they are able.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since its inception; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18704]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The days lost in the Ministry of Justice due to staff sickness in each year since its inception, were:

April to March each year	Total days lost
2007-08	794,078
2008-09	731,042
2009-10	749,723

The estimated cost, to the Ministry of Justice, for the days lost in each year since its inception is:

April to March each year	Estimated cost (£ million)
2007-08	87.1
2008-09	84.4
2009-10	88.9

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18705]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: In the Ministry of Justice (MoJ) these data are unavailable. Sickness absence data are collated centrally to provide information for management, but they are not reported on in the categories requested. Gathering the data requested would require analysing each notification of sickness absence sent in by managers across MoJ. This could be achieved only at disproportionate cost.

The Civil Service internet site includes published information in respect of sickness absence for the civil service as a whole, although reports do no go as far back as 1997.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [18700]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. The Ministry takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations; an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Prisoners

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners refused to comply with direction for a relocation to another prison in the latest period for which figures are available; and for what reason in each case. [19485]

Mr Blunt: Data are not held centrally on the numbers of prisoners who have refused to comply with a move to another prison, nor for what reason they have refused to comply.

This information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost as it would involve a manual trawl through the individual records of every prisoner to ascertain if they were compliant during each move to another prison.

Prisoners' Release

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many and what proportion of prisoners were released *(a)* before the scheduled end of sentence, *(b)* after the scheduled end of sentence and *(c)* on the day scheduled for the end of sentence in each year since 1997. [18838]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the total number of offenders released from determinate custodial sentences in each year from 1998-2009; the number and proportion who were released before the scheduled end of sentence; and the number and proportion who were released at or after the scheduled end of sentence. This is the most recent data available, and figures for 1997 are not held centrally.

The term "scheduled end of sentence" has been interpreted as the normal statutory release date when prisoners serving determinate sentences must be released automatically (e.g. the half-way point for prisoners serving a standard determinate sentence under the Criminal Justice Act 2003). Over the period 1998-2009, offenders could be released before their scheduled end of sentence under two early release schemes: Home Detention Curfew (which was introduced in 1999) and End of Custody Licence (which was introduced on 29 June 2007 and withdrawn in March 2010).

Using the data held centrally, it is not possible to distinguish between those released after and on the day of their scheduled end of sentence. The table therefore shows a total for these two groups.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Prisoners released from determinate sentences, 1998 to 2009

	1998	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Total number released	79,000	85,500	86,200	83,100	86,400	84,800	86,100	84,200	82,400	85,500	94,900	91,200
Releases on Home Detention Curfew (HDC)	—	14,847	15,510	13,649	20,456	21,188	19,294	17,296	13,666	11,428	11,721	11,534
Releases on End of Custody Licence (ECL)	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	16,197	31,318	29,371
Percentage HDC releases	—	17	18	16	24	25	22	21	17	13	12	13
Percentage ECL releases	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	19	33	32
Releases not on HDC or ECL	—	70,600	70,700	69,500	65,900	63,600	66,800	66,900	68,700	57,900	51,900	50,300
Percentage releases not HDC or ECL	—	83	82	84	76	75	78	79	83	68	55	55

Notes:

1. ECL was introduced on 29 June 2007, so the total number of ECL releases in 2007 covers the period from 29 June-31 December 2007.
2. Figures for the total number of releases and releases not on HDC or ECL are rounded to the nearest 100.

Prisoners: Devon and Cornwall

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on prisoner numbers in Devon and Cornwall of Probation Service expenditure reductions of *(a)* 10, *(b)* 20 and *(c)* 30%; [18830]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on the *(a)* caseload of Devon and Cornwall Probation Service and *(b)* provision by that service of (i) court reports and (ii) supervision of people on parole licences of Probation Service spending reductions of (A) 10, (B) 20 and (C) 30%; [18832]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the potential effects on *(a)* staff headcount and *(b)* prisoners in Devon and Cornwall of Probation Service spending reductions of (i) 10, (ii) 20 and (iii) 30%. [18833]

Mr Blunt: To reduce the budget deficit, the Government are examining all areas of public expenditure, including the criminal justice system, to see where savings can be made. Now that the outcome of the Spending Review has been announced, the Ministry of Justice will decide how funding is to be allocated. We will work with Probation Trusts to ensure that they are able to provide the reports requested by the courts and to supervise offenders sentenced to community orders or on release from custody, in accordance with sentencing guidelines.

Work to protect the public and to reduce re-offending is a key priority. All Probation Trusts should ensure that savings are achieved by streamlining administration and improving working practices. Funding should be focused on front line services, to protect the public and reduce re-offending.

Prisoners: Education

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on education services for prisoners in each year since 1997. [18835]

Mr Blunt: Education services for prisoners are funded by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS), devolved to the Skills Funding Agency, formerly the Learning and Skills Council (LSC).

The Learning and Skills Council assumed responsibility for planning and funding the integrated Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) in England on 31 July 2006. OLASS funds the delivery of skills for offenders (aged 15 and over) held in English Public Sector prisons for both sentenced prisoners and those held on remand.

In Wales, from April 2006, commissioning responsibilities for offender learning and skills provision became the responsibility of Director of Offender Management in Wales. Responsibilities for learning and skills provision for those in custody in Wales transferred to the Welsh Assembly Government with effect from 1 April 2009.

Data are available on spend since 2001. The following Table 1 includes spend directly relating to the OLASS provision and also spend associated with the employment of Heads of Learning and Skills in prisons, libraries and Higher Education in public sector prisons in England and Wales.

Table 1

	Total spend (£ million)
2001-02	57
2002-03	73

Table 1

	Total spend (£ million)
2003-04	116
2004-05	126
2005-06	151
2006-07	156
2007-08	161
2008-09	171
2009-10	181

£29 million of the growth between 2005-06 and 2009-10 (inclusive) was as a result of additional education allocations to support the places flowing from the prison Capacity Programme.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) provides both physical resources and staff to support educational activities for prisoners. It is not possible to separately identify these costs which are not held centrally.

Training for prisoners is undertaken, mainly by Prison Service staff, while prisoners work or are engaged in various areas such as prison industries, catering, physical education, land based activities, industrial cleaning and laundries. The central costs of the training elements of these, mainly production functions, are not kept centrally.

NOMS gained co-financing organisation status in January 2009 and successfully bid for a total of £50 million of European Social Funding to enhance the skills and employment services to offenders in prison and the community. NOMS has been granted the funding over 27 months to increase offenders' employability and improve their access to mainstream support provision. Funding has been extended into a second phase up to 2013.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners were engaged in education services in each year since 1997; and what the average cost to the public purse per prisoner was of providing such services. [18836]

Mr Blunt: The information requested is not held.

The Skills Funding Agency is able to provide information on the number of learners engaged in learning and skills provision funded by the Skills Funding Agency, (formerly the Learning and Skills Council) from the Individualised Learner Records (ILR), and the budget allocated by Department for Education and Skills/Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills/Youth Justice Board in the 2006/07 academic year (August 2006 to July 2007), in the 2007/08 academic year (August 2007 to July 2008) and in the 2008/09 academic year (August 2008 to July 2009).

In the 2006/07 academic year, there were 92,371 learners engaged in learning and skills provision, funded by the Learning and Skills Council and the total budget allocated for the same period was £123 million[1]. The average cost per learner was £1,327.

In the 2007/08 academic year, there were 115,807 learners engaged in learning and skills provision in custody, funded by the Learning and Skills Council and the total budget allocated for the same period was £142 million[1]. The average cost per learner was £1,224.

In the 2008/09 academic year, there were 98,324 learners engaged in learning and skills provision in custody funded by the Learning and Skills Council and the total budget allocated for the same period was £160 million[1]. The average cost per learner was £1,631.

[1] Direct Offenders Learning and Skills Service (OLASS) spend only. This does not include libraries, Heads of Learning and Skills and associated costs.

Note:

The number of learners and the Offenders' Learning and Skills budget identified includes those for Young Offenders aged 15-17. The Offenders Learning and Skills budget also includes spends on Information Advice and Guidance (IAG) service which was an integral part of OLASS contracts.

Prisoners: Food

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on food and refreshment services for prisoners *(a)* in total, *(b)* per prisoner per meal and *(c)* per prisoner per day in each year since 1997. [18834]

Mr Blunt: The full cost of providing meals and beverages for prisoners in public sector prisons in England and Wales includes a number of elements. These include staff and prisoner labour, food, training (staff and prisoner), kitchen and servery facilities, utilities and other overheads, including management overheads, and all of these costs are not collected centrally.

It is however possible to separately identify the cost of food (including beverages—see Table 1. Responsibility for determining the establishment food budget lies with the governing Governor who will set aside a realistic sum that will meet the dietary needs of the population of the establishment.

Prisons provide breakfast, lunch and dinner together with all condiments and beverages. The estimated average food cost per meal per prisoner is based on the understanding that breakfast, lunch and dinner account for approximately 20%, 40% and 40% of the daily food expenditure. But these percentages will vary from one establishment to another and are for illustrative purposes only.

Table 1

		(£)			
		Per prisoner per meal (for illustration only)			
Year ending 31 March	*Estimated total[1] (£ million)*	*Breakfast*	*Lunch*	*Dinner*	*Estimated average daily food expenditure per prisoner[1]*
2010	60	0.44	0.88	0.88	2.20
2009	62	0.46	0.92	0.92	2.31
2008	56	0.42	0.85	0.85	2.12
2007	51	0.39	0.79	0.79	1.97
2006	49	0.39	0.77	0.77	1.93
2005	43	0.36	0.73	0.73	1.87

Table 1

		(£)			
		Per prisoner per meal (for illustration only)			
Year ending 31 March	*Estimated total[1] (£ million)*	*Breakfast*	*Lunch*	*Dinner*	*Estimated average daily food expenditure per prisoner[1]*
2004	45	0.36	0.72	0.72	1.81
2003	42	0.34	0.69	0.69	1.72
2002	40	0.35	0.70	0.70	1.74
2001	34	0.33	0.66	0.66	1.64
2000	35	0.29	0.58	0.58	1.46
1999	35	0.29	0.58	0.58	1.44
1998	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a
1997	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a	n/a

n/a = Not available.

[1] The data have been calculated using available management information from the NOMS finance systems and assumes that all transactions have been allocated and recorded against the correct accounting codes.

Prisoners: Housing

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the average cost to the public purse per day of housing a prisoner in each category was in each year since 1997. [18837]

Mr Blunt: The average direct establishment cost of keeping a person in prison for the years from 1997 is as detailed in the following table.

These average costs comprise the prison establishments' direct resource expenditure as published in the Annual Report and Accounts of Her Majesty's Prison Service (HMPS) (or for 2008-9 in an addendum to the NOMS Agency Annual Report and Accounts). Costs are allocated to categories on the basis of the major use of each prison at the end of each year.

In addition, for the two years 2007-08 and 2008-09 an overall cost per prisoner has been calculated and is included in the table. The overall average costs comprise the public and private sector establishments' direct resource expenditure, increased by an apportionment of costs borne centrally by HMPS and the National Offender Management Service. This involves some estimation. The figures do not include prisoners held in police and court cells under Operation Safeguard, nor expenditure met by other Government Departments (e.g. for health and education). The prisoner escort service is included.

Due to changes in scope and accounting treatment over this period, the figures are not necessarily directly comparable. Figures are subject to rounding.

Figures for 2009-10 are being produced and will be published later in the year.

													£
	Establishments' cost per prisoner per day												*Overall cost per prisoner per day*	
Function name	*1997-98*	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Male category B	56	60	61	62	67	67	68	69	71	77	81	81	104	105
Male category C	45	47	50	50	51	55	57	59	60	60	62	62	91	100
Male dispersal	100	107	115	114	112	119	127	130	138	143	144	146	204	203
Female closed	78	80	70	68	71	87	96	100	106	89	127	116	166	148
Female local	78	76	84	84	83	98	111	120	121	113	114	107	159	153
Female open	44	47	59	73	61	71	76	80	79	84	72	91	108	138
Male closed YOI	49	52	59	73	63	81	93	96	94	88	90	91	131	136
Male juvenile		98	126	130	82	96	123	120	124	111	120	144	153	185
Male local	53	57	60	65	63	62	65	67	69	69	73	73	101	106
Male open	44	46	53	48	56	57	52	56	61	65	59	54	87	89
Male open YOI	68	70	76	80	70	52	106	92	99	106	113	101	166	152
Male remand centre	50	57	59	64	70	72	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Semi open	—	—	—	—	64	69	68	70	74	66	69	71	101	111
Cluster	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	61	62	60	94	99

£

Function name	*Establishments' cost per prisoner per day*												*Overall cost per prisoner per day*	
	1997-98	*1998-99*	*1999-2000*	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Mixed male local and female closed	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	87	—	93	—
Contracted out	29	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Prison totals	51	56	60	64	63	66	70	72	74	73	77	76	107	112

Prisoners: Interviews

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to enable prisoners to give media interviews; and if he will make a statement. [19041]

Mr Blunt: It is currently possible for prisoners to have access to journalists in order to give interviews but these are conducted under very strict conditions and only in exceptional circumstances, as set out in Prison Service Instruction 37/2010 which is available in the Library and on the Prison Service website.

Prisoners: Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many additional days were added to prisoners' sentences in each of the last 10 years; and for what reasons days were so added in each such year. [19400]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service records the number of findings of guilt against prisoners at internal disciplinary hearings (adjudications) where additional days were imposed. This information is given in the following table. Some prisoners may have received more than one award of added days. The table also shows the type of offence for which added days were awarded. More detailed figures on offences and punishments are available in "Prison Statistics England and Wales" for the years 2000-02, and the Offender Management Caseload Statistics for the years 2003-09, on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Number of punishments of additional days imposed, and types of offence

	2000	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
All offences	63,918	59,690	32,793	6,368	9,454	12,040	12,566	13,460	12,792	11,550
Violence	10,620	9,308	5,263	1,006	1,089	1,353	1,122	1,028	872	854
Escape/abscond	717	588	426	414	374	232	135	93	81	63
Disobedience/disrespect	21,563	21,441	11,692	1,215	1,814	2,341	2,295	2,462	2,142	1,687
Wilful damage	2,896	2,625	1,558	479	498	531	523	558	541	537
Unauthorised transactions	22,506	20,321	10,458	2,741	5,127	6,979	7,936	8,742	8,648	7,990
Other offences	5,616	5,407	3,396	513	552	604	555	577	508	419

'Violence' includes assault, fighting and detaining against another person's will. 'Disobedience/disrespect' includes disobeying a lawful order, threatening behaviour and refusal to work. 'Unauthorised transactions' includes possession of unauthorised items and drug offences.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many persons convicted of *(a)* between five and nine, *(b)* between 10 and 14 and *(c)* 15 or more offences in each of the last three years did not receive a custodial sentence for any such offence. [19479]

Mr Blunt: The following table shows the total number of offenders sentenced, number of offenders who do not receive an immediate custodial sentence and percentage of offenders who do not receive an immediate custodial sentence. These figures are derived from table 6.2 of 'Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009' which was published on 21 October 2010 and gives a breakdown of offenders sentenced by number of previous convictions and cautions.

Number and percentage of offenders who were sentenced for indictable offences by number of previous convictions and cautions, 2007-09

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Number of offenders sentenced			
First time offenders	33,968	33,937	33,560
1-2 previous convictions/cautions	57,556	57,148	56,637
3-6 previous convictions/cautions	71,549	70,975	69,956
7-10 previous convictions/cautions	41,623	42,901	41,446
11-14 previous convictions/cautions	29,190	31,140	30,165
15 or more previous convictions/ cautions	79,952	90,055	91,120
All offenders	313,838	326,156	322,884
Number of offenders who do not receive an immediate custodial sentence			
First time offenders	24,979	24,386	24,731
1-2 previous convictions/cautions	49,735	48,788	48,139
3-6 previous convictions/cautions	58,090	57,103	56,717

Number and percentage of offenders who were sentenced for indictable offences by number of previous convictions and cautions, 2007-09

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
7-10 previous convictions/cautions	29,683	30,527	30,092
11-14 previous convictions/cautions	19,082	20,242	20,431
15 or more previous convictions/ cautions	47,649	53,497	56,671
All offenders	229,218	234,543	236,781
Percentage of offenders who do not receive an immediate custodial sentence			
First time offenders	73.5	71.9	73.7
1-2 previous convictions/cautions	86.4	85.4	85.0
3-6 previous convictions/cautions	81.2	80.5	81.1
7-10 previous convictions/cautions	71.3	71.2	72.6
11-14 previous convictions/cautions	65.4	65.0	67.7
15 or more previous convictions/ cautions	59.6	59.4	62.2
All offenders	73.0	71.9	73.3

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Small Businesses: Tribunals

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many owners of small businesses employing 10 people or fewer have applied to participate in the employment tribunal system since May 2010. [18924]

Mr Djanogly: As the respondent to an employment tribunal claim, an employer can provide details to the tribunal on the number of people employed by the business. This information may assist the tribunal in understanding the context of the claim. However, the employment tribunal does not hold information centrally on the number of owners of businesses, employing 10 people or fewer, who have applied to participate in the tribunal system as there is no business need or benefit in doing so. The information can be provided only at a disproportionate cost by manually checking each individual case file. Even then, the data contained in case files may not necessarily identify the number of people employed as the disclosure of this information is not mandatory.

DEFENCE

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18568]

Mr Robathan: Sickness absence rates by average working days lost (AWDL) per full-time equivalent (FTE) employee in the Ministry of Defence for the 12 months ending 30 June 2010, the latest information available, are shown in the following table.

The table includes non-industrial and industrial staff and the staff of the four MOD trading funds, but excludes staff in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data are not readily available.

FTE rates[1, 2]

Grade (equivalent)[3]	*July 2009 to 30 June 2010*
AA	11.61
AO	9.75
HO	7.84
HEO	5.64
SEO	5.12
G7	3.86
G6	2.83
SCS	2.17
Unknown	4.16

[1] Data presented reflect the current Cabinet Office definition, setting a maximum absence of 225 days per person, and excludes data for weekends, annual leave and bank holidays. Excludes staff who have been classed as on zero pay.

[2] Average working days lost per full-time equivalent are calculated by dividing the total working days lost for each period by a weighted average of the first of the month strengths for the period, with the strengths at 1 January at the start and end of the period receiving a weighting of 0.5, and the strengths at the first of the other months in the period a weighting of 1.

[3] Equivalent civil service grades have been used to amalgamate the various MOD non-industrial, industrial and trading fund grades.

The MOD is committed to reducing sickness absence and occupational health advice and support is available to all employees and their line managers. Guidance and training is available to line managers on managing absence; we actively encourage the use of return to work interviews and have trigger points in place for the commencement of management action. We are currently reviewing all of our absence policies.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18729]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence is committed to reducing sickness absence, and occupational health advice and support is available to all employees and their line managers. Guidance and training is available to line managers on managing absence; we actively encourage the use of return to work interviews and have trigger points in place for the commencement of management action. We are currently reviewing all of our absence policies.

Data on the number of working days taken by civilian staff in the format required cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs. The Cabinet Office has published annual sickness absence reports for the civil service from 2003 to 2007, these can be viewed at the following website:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

From January 2008 the MOD has submitted sickness absence rates to the Cabinet Office in terms of the total number of days lost through sickness absence split between short-term and long-term sickness absence. Long-term absence is defined as over 28 consecutive calendar days.

The following table shows the number of days lost through sickness absence over a rolling 12-month period. The table includes non-industrial and industrial staff and the staff of the four MOD Trading Funds, but excludes staff in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary and locally engaged civilians for whom sickness absence data is not readily available.

Period of sickness absence	*Days lost (short-term)*	*Days lost (long-term)*
1 January 2007 to 31 December 2007	319,308	374,023
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	303,718	361,559
1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008	300,973	328,816
1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008	297,951	325,799
1 January 2008 to 31 December 2008	297,671	316,404
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	291,174	304,924
1 July 2008 to 30 June 2009	283,007	299,880
1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009	288,527	296,960
1 January 2009 to 31 December 2009	284,930	296,752
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	288,126	303,616
1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010	284,369	300,357

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to the written ministerial statement of 21 April 2009, *Official Report*, columns 6-7WS, on nuclear test veterans' health research, what progress his Department has made on identifying the research required to investigate the health needs of nuclear test veterans; when he expects to receive the report of the working group established to take the projects forward; and if he will make a statement. [19102]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 22 October 2010]:* The Ministry of Defence remains concerned about the health and well-being of those who have served and in that context, following discussion with veterans' representatives, has now placed a contract to take forward a health needs audit of Nuclear Test Veterans (NTV). The audit will gather and record the direct experience and views of NTV in relation to their health and social care needs, and there will be scope to include input from veterans about their children's experiences.

The work is being earned out by Miles and Green Associates, an independent health consultancy. They will be using a postal survey and hold focus groups around the UK. Miles and Green are liaising closely with the British Nuclear Test Veterans Association to develop the detailed scope of the audit and promote participation among veterans. The work began in September 2010 and is expected to take about six to eight months to complete and report.

Mental Illnesses

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the recommendations relating to his Department of the report by the Government Office for Science, Foresight on Mental Capital and Wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective wellbeing; and if he will make a statement. [18456]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* In addition to the wider approach taken by the Department of Health, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and the NHS, the report's relevance to the Ministry of Defence civilian staff relates, in the main, to policies to improve well-being at work, employee support, flexible working, training and development, managing sickness absence, and providing meaningful jobs. The Department already has robust policies in place for these areas.

The Department also has a wide range of measures in place to monitor and manage the mental health and well-being of military personnel. Research by the Academic Centre for Defence Mental Health confirms that personnel benefit greatly by being within well-led units with good support from their colleagues, and managing this is a key chain of command responsibility.

The Defence Medical Services deploy uniformed mental health staff on major operations to provide advice, assessment and care to personnel in theatre. In the UK, community-based mental health care is available at 15 MOD-run regional Departments of Community Mental Health (plus centres overseas), while in-patient care, when necessary, is provided in specialist NHS mental health facilities.

We are always looking for ways in which our mental health services can be extended, and a report into the provision of mental health support to the armed forces and ex-service personnel (commissioned by the Prime Minister from my hon. Friend the Member for South West Wiltshire (Dr Murrison) was published earlier this month. This makes a wide-ranging number of recommendations that the MOD and Department of Health will be looking to introduce. Two of the key recommendations are due to be introduced immediately: a dedicated 24-hour support line for veterans, and the placing of 30 dedicated mental health nurses in mental health trusts to ensure the right support is organised specifically for veterans.

Military Decorations

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many George Medals have been awarded in each of the last three years. [19179]

Mr Robathan: The George Medal was instituted, together with the George Cross, on 24 September 1940. It is awarded to civilians for acts of great bravery, but not so outstanding as to merit consideration for the George Cross. The George Medal is also awarded to military personnel for those acts for which military honours would not normally be granted, such as acts of great bravery not in the presence of the enemy.

The following table shows the number of George Medals that have been awarded to military personnel since 2008.

	Number of George Medals awarded
2008	0
2009	1 + 1 bar
2010	3

The Ministry of Defence does not hold the figures for the number of George Medals that have been awarded to civilians.

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Conspicuous Gallantry Cross medals have been awarded in each of the last three years. [19276]

Mr Robathan: The Conspicuous Gallantry Cross is awarded in recognition of acts of conspicuous gallantry during active operations against the enemy.

The following table shows the number of Conspicuous Gallantry Crosses that have been awarded to military personnel since 2008.

	Number of Conspicuous Gallantry Crosses awarded
2008	5
2009	6
2010	11

Trident

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he plans to publish the report on the Trident Value for Money Review. [17298]

Dr Fox: The Value for Money Review's outcomes were published within the Strategic Defence and Security Review, published on Tuesday 9 October 2010.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Afghanistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment he has made of the distribution of aid in Afghanistan. [18886]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development is currently reviewing all our country programmes, including our programme in Afghanistan. The Bilateral Aid Review is focusing on results, delivery mechanisms and the relationship between costs, outputs and outcomes. It also takes account of what other donors are doing, and considers where DFID can add value. The review will be completed by February 2011.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many aid projects sponsored by his Department have been completed in Afghanistan since 2001. [18887]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The total number of Department for International Development (DFID) projects active since 2004 is 130, of which 80 have been completed. Obtaining information on project completed from 2001 to 2004 would incur disproportionate cost as electronic records and hard copy project paperwork prior to 2004 have been archived.

Africa: Poverty

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of *(a)* structural adjustment programmes and *(b)* poverty reduction strategy papers on reducing poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa. [18590]

Mr O'Brien: Structural adjustment programmes (SAPs) were economic policy reform programmes supported by World Bank and International Monetary Fund (IMF) lending in the 1980s and 1990s, which aimed to improve macro-economic stability and economic growth. The SAPs of the 1990s helped to lay the macro-economic policy foundations for many sub-Saharan African countries to achieve faster economic growth since 2000. However, they were often criticised for inducing adverse social impacts.

The poverty reduction strategy paper (PRSP) approach was launched by the World Bank and IMF in 1999 to help guide their financing and aid received from other donors, and to ensure that debt relief under the heavily indebted poor countries (HIPC) programme would help to reduce poverty. Core principles of PRSPs are that strategies are country-owned, multi-year and designed to achieve poverty reduction results, particularly those linked to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). PRSPs are still the basis for many World Bank and IMF lending programmes.

There have been numerous assessments of the impacts of SAPs and PRSPs. The Secretary of State has not made a formal assessment of the effectiveness of SAPs or PRSP's in reducing poverty in sub-Saharan Africa. What we are interested in going forward, is how to make faster progress against the MDGs and deliver value for money with all UK aid.

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18624]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) currently has no contracts with Capita, therefore our expenditure for 2010-11 is zero.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18709]

Mr Duncan: Available information on the number of Department for International Development (DFID) staff that have been subject to disciplinary action, removed from post, transferred to another position or dismissed in each year since 1999 is provided as follows. Where the total number of staff concerned is fewer then five we are unable to provide more specific data as this could potentially identify the individuals involved and so breach confidentiality. Information prior to 1999 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

	Number of staff subject to disciplinary action	*Removed from post*	*Transferred to another position*	*Number dismissed*
1999	n/a	n/a	n/a	Under 5
2000	n/a	n/a	n/a	Under 5
2001	n/a	n/a	n/a	Under 5
2002	n/a	n/a	n/a	5
2003	n/a	n/a	n/a	Under 5
2004	n/a	n/a	n/a	Under 5
2005	n/a	n/a	n/a	Under 5
2006	20	Under 5	Under 5	5
2007	29	Under 5	Under 5	9
2008	23	Under 5	Under 5	5
2009	18	Under 5	Under 5	Under 5
2010 (to date)	14	Under 5	Under 5	Under 5

n/a = Information not available without incurring disproportionate cost.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary values was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18707]

Mr Duncan: Details of the total value of performance-related pay and other payments in addition to salary in each financial year from 2004-05 are included in the following table. The figures provided do not include payments to cover the reimbursement of business expenses nor the reimbursement of education fees.

Financial Year	*Total (£)*
2004-05	4,105,496
2005-06	5,429,535
2006-07	7,535,239
2007-08	7,985,906
2008-09	8,557,449
2009-10	10,072,164

There are 13 categories of payment aggregated in the totals above and it is not possible to provide the numbers of individual members of staff receiving payments as many will have received payments under more than one heading. The following table provides details of the 20 largest payments made in each financial year.

Financial year	*£*
2004-05	24,674
	24,674
	18,125
	16,572
	15,131
	14,330
	13,268
	13,268
	13,268
	12,889
	12,889
	12,874
	12,874
	12,690
	12,020
	12,020
	11,779
	11,779
	11,779
	11,779
2005-06	30,591
	24,762
	24,182
	23,361
	22,590
	21,888
	18,327
	14,966
	14,966
	14,843
	14,155
	14,155
	14,155
	14,000
	13,438
	13,135
	13,135
	12,467
	12,453
	12,450
2006-07	30,474
	30,474
	26,833
	21,019
	20,317
	19,578
	18,427
	17,777
	17,777
	17,531
	17,288
	16,671
	16,179
	16,143

Financial year	£
	16,143
	16,143
	16,143
	16,143
	16,143
	16,143
2007-08	33,283
	33,283
	33,283
	33,283
	30,494
	30,494
	30,367
	29,710
	27,543
	23,176
	20,195
	20,191
	20,187
	17,167
	17,167
	17,167
	17,167
	17,167
	16,993
	16,993
2008-09	33,615
	33,615
	33,615
	32,614
	32,236
	28,123
	27,575
	25,849
	25,565
	25,342
	24,451
	23,656
	23,430
	23,409
	22,700
	22,517
	21,859
	21,558
	21,423
	20,685
2009-10	42,134
	41,185
	41,086
	39,276
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	36,421
	35,515
	34,128
	33,401
	31,730
	30,106
	29,847

Information prior to financial year 2004-05 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost. The Commonwealth Scholarship Commission, DFID's only non-departmental public body, does not employ staff and has therefore not made any such payments.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18708]

Mr Duncan: Details of the allowances payable in addition to salary, together with the total value of each payment type from 2004-05 are included in the following tables. The figures provided do not include payments to cover the reimbursement of business expenses nor the reimbursement of education fees. Where the total number of staff concerned is fewer than five, we are unable to provide more specific data as this could potentially identify the individuals involved and so breach confidentiality. Information prior to 2004-05 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

	2004-05		*2005-06*		*2006-07*	
Payment description	*Total (£)*	*Number of recipients*	*Total (£)*	*Number of recipients*	*Total (£)*	*Number of recipients*
Performance related pay	872,540	1,716	824,438	1,116	1,014,215	1,223
Overseas cost of living allowance	905,052	570	1,564,780	715	2,253,622	747
Overseas hardship allowance	1,362,679	587	1,985,124	728	2,900,101	754

Payment description	2004-05		2005-06		2006-07	
	Total (£)	Number of recipients	Total (£)	Number of recipients	Total (£)	Number of recipients
Overseas relocation allowances	367,955	237	348,025	210	522,789	270
Representation allowances	168,698	297	165,010	317	251,682	364
Overseas maintenance allowance	58,661	125	50,358	123	58,110	122
Market allowances	322,466	235	391,032	237	393,243	231
Foreign language allowance	5,039	5	1,172	[1]—	858	[1]—
On call allowance	8,666	28	26,543	45	43,749	49
Inner London dispersal	475	[1]—	456	[1]—	456	[1]—
Hazardous locations allowance	30,536	46	69,709	65	91,362	61
Fire warden and evacuation pay	1,450	29	1,650	32	4,183	84
Footwear allowance	442	9	0	0	0	0

Payment description	2007-08		2008-09		2009-10	
	Total (£)	Number of recipients	Total (£)	Number of recipients	Total (£)	Number of recipients
Performance related pay	1,334,953	1,648	670,978	79	1,426,279	1,443
Overseas cost of living allowance	2,160,074	785	3,055,481	802	3,748,731	801
Overseas hardship allowance	3,117,035	788	3,485,680	800	3,624,147	797
Overseas relocation allowances	551,788	279	555,462	275	528,589	244
Representation allowances	261,238	353	242,583	340	199,253	309
Overseas maintenance allowance	58,088	139	59,184	126	43,144	90
Market allowances	358,421	210	322,108	168	322,343	171
Foreign language allowance	1,223	[1]—	910	[1]—	858	[1]—
On call allowance	57,784	47	74,090	76	76,038	69
Inner London dispersal	228	[1]—	228	[1]—	228	[1]—
Hazardous locations allowance	78,930	48	83,774	43	98,504	67
Fire warden and evacuation pay	5,000	97	4,400	88	4,050	81
Footwear allowance	0	0	0	0	0	0

[1] Data withheld where the number of recipients is less than 5.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18578]

Mr Duncan: The number of average working days lost (AWDL) to sickness absence at each job grade in the Department for International Development (DFID) during financial year 2009-10 is as follows.

Average working days lost to sickness absence

Job grade	Days
Senior civil service	1.7
Band A1/grade 6	0.9
Band A2/grade 7	2.4
Band A2(L)/senior executive officer	3.7
Band B1/higher executive officer	5.7
Band B2/executive officer	8.9
Band C1/administrative officer	14.3
Band C2/administrative assistant	17.9
Overall	4.9

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18706]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements.

DFID takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does all other relevant legal obligations. An accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18710]

Mr Duncan: Details of the number of days lost to sickness absence in the Department for International Development (DFID) in each financial year since 2005-06 and an approximation of the associated costs of such sickness absence are provided in the table. Information prior to 2005-06 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost.

Financial year	*Number of days lost to sickness absence*	*Approximate sickness absence cost (£)*
2005-06	11,171	1,900,123
2006-07	9,001	1,529,824
2007-08	10,052	1,709,363
2008-09	9,903	1,683,180
2009-10	9,112	1,548,526

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) it total in each year since 1997. [18711]

Mr Duncan: Details of the number of Department for International Development (DFID) staff who have had total annual sick absences within the ranges requested, in each financial year since 2007-08, are provided as follows. Information on the number of consecutive absences and details prior to 2007-08 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate cost, sufficient

Sickness absence periods	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Fewer than five days	560	299	318
Five to 10 days	198	139	148
10 to 15 days	78	61	64
15 to 20 days	33	34	33
20 to 25 days	14	21	22
25 to 50 days	51	40	42
50 to 75 days	15	22	20
75 to 100 days	10	6	6
100 to 150 days	7	7	9
150 to 200 days	2	4	5
More than 200 days	4	7	2
More than 3 months	32	28	25
More than 6 months	6	14	11
More than 1 year	4	4	1

Developing Countries: Maternity Services

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 920W, on developing countries: maternity services, what datasets his Department collects on its maternal and newborn health programmes in each *(a)* region and *(b)* country. [18665]

Mr O'Brien: In order to assess the effectiveness of our programmes to improve maternal and newborn health, the Department for International Development (DFID) draws on national data and statistics, as well as data and statistics collected by DFID's partners, including agencies such as the GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

At the global level, DFID also draws on data from the United Nations Statistics Division's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) database, to assess progress against MDGs 4 and 5, pertaining to maternal and child health.

These data are also informing the ongoing Bilateral and Multilateral Aid Reviews.

Henderson Island: Biodiversity

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to programmes related to the preservation of biodiversity on Henderson Island in each of the next three years. [18857]

Mr Duncan: Through the Overseas Territories Environment Programme, the Department for International Development (DFID) is contributing £18,000 in 2010-11 and £85,000 in 2011-12 towards a project to eradicate rats from Henderson Island. A successful eradication will help preserve this unique island's World Heritage status and secure the long-term future of its wildlife.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent assessment his Department has made of future levels of biodiversity on Henderson Island; and if he will make a statement. [18858]

Mr Duncan: The Overseas Territories Environment Programme (OTEP), a joint programme of the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO), has funded research into the impacts of Pacific Rats on the wildlife of Henderson Island and feasibility studies of their eradication. These studies have concluded that a number of species, such as the Henderson Petrel, are under severe threat with over 90% of chicks eaten by rats. Permanent eradication of rats without damaging other wildlife is reported to be technically feasible.

Overseas Aid

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department has allocated to support *(a)* food aid programmes and *(b)* agricultural development in each country in (i) sub-Saharan Africa and (ii) Asia in each of the last five years. [18519]

Mr O'Brien: Details of the Department for International Development's (DFID) expenditure are published annually in Statistics on International Development (SID) which is available on the DFID website and in the Library. The relevant figures are reproduced as follows.

(a) DFID bilateral expenditure on food aid in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
(i) Sub-Saharan Africa:					
Burundi	—	2,640	—	—	—
Chad	—	524	—	—	—
Eritrea	-4	—	-243	—	—
Ethiopia	386	464	182	20,744	13,700
Guinea	—	—	155	40	—
Kenya	—	—	215	165	12
Lesotho	584	607	471	644	406
Liberia	163	124	—	—	—
Malawi	710	867	177	—	1,506
Niger	—	—	183	39	—
Somalia	—	—	—	—	65
South Africa	526	1,138	1,326	—	—
Sudan	740	936	747	—	—
Swaziland	—	—	1,722	798	—
Uganda	—	2,000	9,500	8,000	—
Zambia	4,370	569	447	831	36
Zimbabwe	2,510	5,852	10,808	10,594	1,538
South of Sahara regional	16	—	—	—	—
(ii) Asia:					
Afghanistan	—	—	3,000	—	—
Bangladesh	6,745	790	3,891	4,320	5,225
Burma	178	371	764	659	1,871
India	414	117	110	319	271
Nepal	—	—	317	—	—
Pakistan	—	—	74	—	—
Vietnam	596	2,039	734	123	-243
Yemen	—	—	457	1,710	1,495
Asia regional	32	—	-35	—	558

(b) DFID bilateral expenditure on agriculture in sub-Saharan Africa and Asia

£000

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
(i) Sub-Saharan Africa:					
Botswana	—	35	—	—	—
Congo, Dem Rep	—	—	—	698	59
Ethiopia	544	23	15,492	4,204	21,378
Gambia	-18	—	—	—	—
Ghana	4,632	1,045	3,008	2,723	1,839
Kenya	1,049	1,421	472	110	-16
Lesotho	364	306	150	155	99
Liberia	—	280	—	—	—
Madagascar	22	18	16	—	—
Malawi	723	2,546	2,529	2,547	1,615
Mozambique	364	491	331	427	583
Namibia	596	289	—	—	—
Nigeria	3,021	2,609	1,835	1,039	1,037
Rwanda	282	1,995	1,394	1,090	3,230
Sierra Leone	—	17	16	79	6
Somalia	—	500	—	735	123
South Africa	599	463	292	259	—
Southern Africa Development Community	50	100			
St Helena	22	40	14	4	123
Sudan	—	—	—	3,213	9,290
Swaziland	—	89	1	—	—
Tanzania	4	80	164	221	54
Uganda	305	98	90	304	239
Zambia	43	55	59	35	13
Zimbabwe	—		25	2,747	4,419
South of Sahara regional	192	110	279	104	6,950
(ii) Asia					
Afghanistan	3,408	12,938	3,212	22,308	14,498
Bangladesh	9,815	13,341	15,675	18,857	17,450
Burma	284	566	540	689	2,064
Cambodia	1,851	2,291	1,245	2,397	3,369
China	2,877	2,707	2,525	3,718	2,980
East Timor	150	154	150	—	—
India	16,105	22,545	20,241	19,646	16,809
Indonesia	—	34	47	34	6
Kazakhstan	117	—	—	—	—
Kyrgyzstan	469	674	620	1,240	496
Nepal	5,409	5,096	5,148	9,772	10,734
Pakistan	1,372	1,790	4,384	1,569	3,264
Philippines	—	—	1	1	1
Sri Lanka	17	31	23	42	33
Tajikistan	499	598	545	847	741
Vietnam	12,393	4,641	3,951	1,193	2,414
Yemen	—	—	—	576	1,736
Asia regional	104	—	—	25	44

Pakistan: Overseas Aid

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what types of aid his Department has given to Pakistan to assist with the aftermath of the recent floods; and what the *(a)* monetary value and *(b)* cost of that aid has been. [18888]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: I refer the hon. Member to my written statement of 12 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 12WS, which sets out details of UK aid for the humanitarian crisis in Pakistan. The UK Government are providing £134 million, of which goods in kind account for £1,967,680. This figure does not take account of transportation costs and is subject to exchange rate fluctuations.

In line with standard humanitarian practice, none of this funding has been provided to the Government of

Pakistan. For further details of organisations to the floods, I refer the hon. Member to my written answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 125W, and to the Floods Monitor on DFID's website.

Pitcairn Islands

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with *(a)* Ministerial colleagues and *(b)* his international counterparts on the Pitcairn Islands in the last six months. [18855]

Mr Duncan: There have been no formal meetings, but I expect Ministers to meet to discuss a new strategy for the Overseas Territories in due course.

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to programmes in the Pitcairn Islands in each of the last 10 years. [18859]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has provided the following amounts to Pitcairn over the last 10 years:

Financial year	*Amount (£)*
2009-10	1,790,000
2008-09	2,115,000
2007-08	1,462,000
2006-07	1,837,000
2005-06	2,582,000
2004-05	1,314,000
2003-04	64,000
2002-03	53,000
2001-02	26,000
2000-01	18,000

Sri Lanka: Armed Conflict

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Sri Lankan Government on the return of Tamils to their homes. [18885]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have not had any discussions with the Sri Lankan Government regarding the return of Tamils to their homes. However, the British high commissioner in Colombo discusses this issue regularly with the Government of Sri Lanka in order to encourage the Sri Lankan authorities to allow those people who remain in camps for internally displaced people to return to their home areas as soon as possible.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office on the distribution of aid to the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. [18884]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have had no direct discussions with the Foreign Secretary regarding the distribution of aid to the Tamil population in Sri Lanka. However, officials from the Department for International Development (DFID) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) are in contact regularly about DFID's ongoing humanitarian aid programme in Sri Lanka, which is aiding displaced persons and funding de-mining.

World Bank

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department allocated for expenditure through the World Bank in each of the last five years; for what purposes such funding was used; what evaluation he has made of the outcomes of the expenditure; and if he will make a statement. [18849]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) provides core funding to the International Development Association (IDA) of the World Bank. IDA is the concessional arm of the bank, providing low interest loans and grants to programmes in 79 of the poorest countries to boost economic growth, deliver the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and improve living conditions. DFID funding to IDA in the last five years is as follows:

Financial year	*£ million*
2005-06	364.8
2006-07	493
2007-08	493
2008-09	524
2009-10	620

The UK also contributes to Trust Funds that are administered by the World Bank Group. This includes funding to large Global Funds such as the Education Fast Track Initiative or Climate Investment Funds which have their own governance structures and where the bank acts as a financial intermediary. DFID also contributes to country level and thematic Trust Funds.

The bank have just issued a paper which sets out major achievements from IDA financing over the last decade, including saving at least 13 million lives, providing access to a clean water source to over 113 million people and bringing better education to more than 100 million children each year.

DFID is carrying out a Multilateral Aid Review to assess the effectiveness of IDA and others. This is to ensure that we get best value for money from UK contributions to these organisations. The results of the review will be published in February 2011.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Attorney-General how much the Law Officers' Departments spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18399]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is contained in the following table:

Department	*Overseas travel cost (SCS)[1] (£)*
TSol[2]	12,473
CPS[3]	41,935
SFO	18,884
NFA	994

[1] Data cover financial year 2009-10.
[2] TSol data also cover AGO and HMCPSI
[3] CPS data include costs for RCPO from 1 October 2010. RCPO data prior to this date could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Female Genital Mutilation

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Attorney-General how many prosecutions have been brought in respect of offences relating to female genital mutilation in each of the last five years. [18442]

The Attorney-General: There have been no prosecutions in respect of offences relating to female genital mutilation in the last five years.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Misuse

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department has spent on national public awareness campaigns to reduce the level of *(a)* alcohol abuse, *(b)* drug abuse and *(c)* domestic violence in each of the last five years. [18323]

James Brokenshire: The following table summarises Home Office spend on national public awareness campaigns to combat *(a)* alcohol abuse, *(b)* drug abuse and *(c)* domestic violence in each of the last five years.

The figures provided refer to the cost of media for TV, print, radio, cinema and posters excluding VAT, advertising production and related fees.

£

	Alcohol abuse	*Drug abuse*	*Domestic violence*
2009-10	1,716,361	442,130	0
2008-09	2,790,203	717,397	0
2007-08	2,900,411	898,509	0
2006-07	2,206,718	3,467,021	800,384
2005-06	92,204	1,524,701	534,587

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she plans to take to implement her proposal to prohibit the sale of alcohol below cost price following the consultation on re-balancing the Licensing Act 2003; and if she will make a statement. [19121]

James Brokenshire: The Government are committed to banning the sale of alcohol below cost price. We are considering all options and plan to introduce this measure at the earliest opportunity without unduly impacting on industry or responsible drinkers.

Border Controls: France

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with the French government on the border controls at *(a)* Calais, *(b)* Gare du Nord and *(c)* Charles de Gaulle airport. [19066]

Damian Green: The UK holds regular discussions, at both ministerial and official level, with the French authorities on the issue of border controls at French ports, including Calais. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I have both met French counterparts to discuss migration issues, including the juxtaposed controls and wider bilateral co-operation, and it is expected that agreement will soon be reached on the next phase of UK-France collaboration at the border controls at Calais and other northern ports.

The Secretary of State has not held any recent discussions with the French Government on border controls at Paris Gare du Nord or Charles de Gaulle airport. The UK Border Agency operates immigration controls at Gare du Nord where UK Border Agency officials are in regular contact with their French counterparts about matters of mutual interest and to ensure the security of the UK border. No rail services operate to the UK from Charles de Gaulle Airport and there is no UK border control at the location.

Borders: Personal Records

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the effect on the e-Borders programme of the absence of an agreement at EU level on passenger data requirements for journeys within the EU. [17734]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 October 2010]*: The Government are committed to e-Borders and to ensuring that we can progress this programme in a timely and cost-effective way.

The decision to terminate the e-Borders contract with the prime supplier, Raytheon Systems Limited (RSL), and re-let the contract to another supplier was based on the poor performance of RSL to date. The Government are determined to get value for money from their major contracts and require the highest standard of performance from their suppliers.

The failure of RSL to progress overall delivery has led to us being unable to make an assessment of the effect that the lack of EU agreement would have had on the Programme.

Officials continue to engage in regular dialogue with the EU Commission and member states on matters relating to the e-Borders programme. These include a mutual understanding of how the programme operates in a way that is compatible with EU law on free movement and data protection.

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many contracts her Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18629]

Nick Herbert: The Home Office currently has two contracts with Capita. It has not so far incurred expenditure against these contracts in 2010-11 to date.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 201W, on the Criminal Records Bureau, what estimate she has made of the number of people who were in receipt of out of work related benefits for up to 30.86 days on average because of the time taken for the Criminal Records Bureau to process a disclosure in the latest period for which figures are available. [18618]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) does not hold the information requested. The bureau's system stores information based upon each application and not on each individual applicant. Each application is treated as a new application and the current employment status of the individual is not captured in the application process. Therefore it is not possible to identify if the person is on benefits or not.

Criminal Records: East Sussex

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* nationally and *(b)* resident in Hastings and Rye constituency have been subject to more than one Criminal Records Bureau check within 12 months during the latest period for which figures are available. [18424]

Lynne Featherstone: The data provided in the following table represent all applications received by the Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) within the period 1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010 inclusive.

1 October 2009 to 30 September 2010	*Applications received by CRB*	*More than one application received for applicant at same postcode*	*Percentage*
All Applications	4,422,102	526,899	11.9
Hastings and Rye Applications	10,197	1,173	11.5

The data represent where more than one application has been received where the applicant has the same postcode. They exclude applications received prior 1 October 2009 and applications received by post on 30 Sept 2010.

These cases will include where the applicant has applied for different posts.

EU Economic Migrant Cap

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effect on foreign direct investment of the inclusion of inter-company transfers within the proposed non-EU economic migrant cap. [18929]

Damian Green: The Government's consultation on the introduction of an annual limit on those admitted to work in the UK from outside the European Union—including the coverage of limits—closed in September. The Government will bring forward their proposals in due course. The Government will publish a full impact assessment when their proposals are announced.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department and its non-departmental public bodies of implementing and monitoring compliance with legislation transposing EU requirements in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement; [18778]

(2) what estimate she has made of the cost to her Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if she will make a statement. [18779]

Damian Green: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 19 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 27W, in which I provided details of the estimate which the Home Office had made of known costs to the Department resulting from statutory obligations which stemmed from EU legislation over a requested one-year period (July 2009 to June 2010). The Home Office has no central estimate of the costs to the Department or its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with human rights requirements (domestic and international) or with legislation transposing EU requirements. Such an estimate could be collated only at a disproportionate cost.

Impact assessments are increasingly valuable in determining the costs of EU proposals and, in preparing or contributing to them, we would normally aim to identify all the costs likely to arise, including those of significance falling on the public sector.

European Arrest Warrant: Dr Daniel Ubani

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department on what date her Department received an application for the arrest of Dr Daniel Ubani under the European arrest warrant procedure. [17732]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) received a European Arrest Warrant (EAW) in respect of Dr Daniel Ubani from the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) on 9 March 2009. The warrant was returned to the CPS by SOCA requesting minor corrections. The amended EAW was received by SOCA on 12 March and sent to Germany on 13 March 2009.

Extradition

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many UK citizens have been *(a)* extradited and *(b)* transferred to face criminal proceedings in each other EU member state in each year since 1997; [7528]

(2) how many applications for UK citizens to be *(a)* extradited and *(b)* transferred to face criminal proceedings in each other EU member state in each year since 1997 were successful; [7529]

(3) how many applications for UK citizens to be extradited to face criminal proceedings were made by each non-EU state in each year since 1997; and how many such applications were successful. [7530]

Nick Herbert: Since 1 January 2004, extradition between EU member states has been governed by the Framework Decision on the European Arrest Warrant (EAW). The Serious Organised Crime Agency (SOCA) and Crown Office (for Scotland) are the designated central authorities for the receipt and transmission of EAWs within the UK. Under the EAW process "surrender" is used to describe "extradited" and "transferred".

Since the inception of the EAW on 1 January 2004 up to 31 March 2010, 145 UK citizens have been surrendered to other European member states pursuant to EAWs. Information on the member state that issued the EAW is available for the period 1 October 2008 to 31 March 2010. It should be noted that surrenders do not correlate to the requests made in the same period. Some surrenders can occur weeks or months following the initial request. The following tables identify the member states that made the request.

Data on the member states which have issued EAWs for 101 UK citizens surrendered in the period prior to 1 October 2008 are unavailable. These data could be provided only by a manual examination of all SOCA case records for that period. This would incur a disproportionate cost.

The nationality of persons subject to extradition requests from EU member states was not routinely recorded prior to 2004. To provide the figures for 1997 to 2004 would incur disproportionate cost as this would require a manual examination of Home Office files.

The third table shows the number of extradition requests made to England and Wales (and Northern Ireland since 1 April 2008) and processed by the Home Office since 1997. Due to the way in which extradition requests have been recorded by the Home Office, the following information will include all requests made outside the EAW framework. It will therefore include some requests made by EU member states prior to them operating the EAW. It has not been possible to break down these numbers so as to identify either the person's nationality or the state which requested extradition as this would entail a manual examination of all files, which would again incur disproportionate cost.

Finally, it should also be emphasised that an extradition request is not always finalised in the same year as a request is made. The figures quoted may, therefore, include extradition requests made before 1997.

October 2008 to March 2009, British Nationals, EAW cases and surrenders

Requesting country	*Requests*	*Surrenders*
Cyprus	1	0
France	5	0
Germany	5	0
Greece	2	0
Hungary	2	0
Ireland	2	0
Italy	2	0
Lithuania	1	0
Netherlands	7	2
Romania	1	0
Spain	6	1
Total	34	3

Business year 2009-10, British Nationals, EAW cases and surrenders

Requesting country	*Requests*	*Surrenders*
Belgium	8	1
Cyprus	1	3
Finland	1	0
France	20	5
Germany	27	2
Greece	11	1
Hungary	1	1
Ireland	9	4
Italy	6	0
Latvia	0	1
Lithuania	2	0
Luxembourg	1	1
Malta	1	2
Netherlands	29	8
Poland	2	1
Portugal	3	0
Slovenia	3	0
Spain	31	11
Sweden	1	0
Total	157	41

Extradition requests received, 1997 to 2009

	Requests received	*Surrendered*	*Not returned*
1997	107	43	27
1998	111	45	45
1999	101	38	25
2000	78	47	28
2001	133	55	42
2002	137	53	54
2003	114	55	39
2004	99	50	41
2005	54	62	37
2006	64	45	38
2007	49	29	25
2008	57	17	18
2009	81	38	31

It is not possible precisely to tally the number of requests received with the number of those extradited or not returned (whether discharged by the courts or Secretary of State, withdrawn by the requesting state etc.) in a defined period for a number of reasons. At any one stage there are a number of active extradition requests under consideration which will not count as either surrendered or not returned until they have been finalised.

Additionally there may be a small number of people, subject to extradition proceedings, who for example have absconded, are serving a domestic sentence, or have not been arrested but remain wanted. These cases also cannot be closed until a final outcome has been reached. A further complicating factor is that some of the return figures will relate to requests made before the start of the defined period.

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that the UK Border Agency works together with *(a)* police officers and *(b)* local authorities to identify individuals who may have been trafficked. [19474]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency (UKBA) works together with police officers and local authorities within the National Referral Mechanism (NRM). The NRM is designed to make it easier for all the different agencies that could be involved in a trafficking case such as the police and local authorities to co-operate; to share information about potential victims and facilitate their access to advice, accommodation and support. The NRM Strategic Monitoring Group, which includes local authority and law enforcement representatives, oversees the NRM and looks to resolve issues as they arise.

Detailed trafficking guidance that highlights the importance of working with the police and local authorities has been issued to all UKBA staff:

Guidance for Competent Authorities available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/competent-guidance

Guidance for front-line staff available at:

http://www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/sitecontent/documents/policyandlaw/asylumprocessguidance/specialcases/guidance/trafficking-guidance?view=Binary

UKBA also has strong regional partnership arrangements in place. Regional immigration crime teams, for example, are comprised of both UKBA staff and seconded police officers. The agency also has local immigration teams across the country that work alongside the police, HM Revenue and Customs, local authorities and other local partners to ensure compliance with, and enforce, our immigration laws.

Immigration

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 403W, on immigration, from what countries of origin those people normally resident in the Peterborough City Council area who *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted indefinite leave to remain. [19104]

Damian Green: All the data requested have been placed in the Library.

The UK Border Agency is unable to provide definitive data on the applicants address at the time of application. The information provided is therefore the applicants last known address.

The data in the Library list applications made for indefinite leave from April 2009 to March 2010 for applicants living in the Peterborough city council area.

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Immigration: Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she has made an assessment of the likely effects of her Department's cap on immigration on the number of *(a)* farmers, *(b)* directors, *(c)* partners and *(d)* spouses in each agricultural sector in 2010-11. [18496]

Damian Green: The Government's consultation on the introduction of an annual limit on those admitted to work in the UK from outside the European closed in September. The Government will bring forward their proposals in due course. The Government will publish a full impact assessment when their proposals are announced.

Immigration: Kettering

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applicants for indefinite leave to remain in the UK had their last known address in *(a)* the borough of Kettering and *(b)* Northamptonshire in the latest period for which figures are available; how many such applicants were successful and of which nationalities the applicants were. [18582]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 October 2010]*: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide definitive data on the applicants address at the time of application. The information provided is therefore the applicants last known address.

The following table lists applications made for indefinite leave from April 9 to March 10 for applicants living in the borough of Kettering and in Northamptonshire. It also shows the number of these applicants that were subsequently granted.

	2009									*2010*			
	Apr	*May*	*Jun*	*Jul*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*March*	*Total*
Kettering													
Number of applications made	10	16	17	16	13	12	4	5	9	9	21	8	140
Number of these applications granted	9	11	13	15	12	11	4	5	7	9	18	6	120
Northamptonshire													
Number of applications made	104	100	106	115	88	86	50	40	81	97	103	116	1086
Number of these applications granted	82	75	88	102	72	77	44	36	65	84	84	94	903

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

A full breakdown of the above by nationality can be found in the Library (supplied in Annex A, B, C and D of background note).

Immigration: Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost to businesses of familiarisation with provisions of immigration law. [18930]

Damian Green: No estimate has been made of the general costs faced by the private sector in familiarising itself with immigration law. However, whenever there is a significant change in immigration law, the costs of familiarisation associated with that change are estimated. For example, the impact assessment for the introduction of interim limits on migration (IA No: HO0007 published on 28 June 2010) presented an estimate of £60,000 for a one-off cost to the private sector. This estimate was based on the costs of time taken by regulated private sector advisers to familiarise themselves with the changes.

Immigration: Overseas Students

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the review of the points-based immigration system as it relates to overseas students to be completed; and if she will make a statement. [19088]

Damian Green: The Government are reviewing all migration routes to the UK and expect to announce any changes to the system in due course.

Internet

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to implement her Department's proposals to end the storage of internet and email records without good reason. [18268]

Nick Herbert *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Government have confirmed that preserving the ability of the security, intelligence and law enforcement agencies to obtain communication data in accordance with law is vital to the work these agencies do to protect the public. The reasons they may require the disclosure of such data, subject to strict safeguards, include safeguarding national security and for purposes including preventing and detecting crime and, in an emergency, preventing death and injury. Communications data transaction records are generated, processed and retained by communications service providers in the course of their business. By notice under regulations, service providers may be required to retain securely specific data for 12 months where those data are not otherwise retained. The Government will not require any unnecessary or disproportionate retention of data under the regulations and will ensure that our response to changing technology is compatible with the Government's approach to information storage and civil liberties.

Investigatory Powers Tribunal

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to create a right of appeal in respect of the rulings of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. [18021]

Nick Herbert: The Government consider that the tribunal acts as a quasi court of appeal in respect of the remit set out for it in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000, and therefore is not considering proposals to create a right of appeal in respect of its rulings.

For example, the tribunal has wide jurisdiction to consider complaints regarding the use of interception powers and as regards the interception of communications to investigate whether the persons against whom a complainant makes allegations have intercepted communications of the complainant and to investigate the authority for any interceptions that are found to have occurred. A claim may be based on an allegation that a convention right has been violated or on other public law grounds.

Further, a claim can be brought against any of the intelligence services in relation to their use or handling of any intercepted material, whether by reference to the convention or on other public law grounds. The tribunal has extensive powers to require the disclosure or provision of documents and information.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will bring forward proposals to establish further accountability mechanisms in respect of the Investigatory Powers Tribunal. [18022]

Nick Herbert: The Government consider that the tribunal itself provides an oversight role in respect of the use of certain powers defined in the Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2000 by the intelligence services; and therefore there is no need to establish further accountability mechanisms for it.

In support of these powers, members of the tribunal must either hold or have held high judicial office, or be a qualified lawyer of at least 10 years' standing. The president of the tribunal must hold or have held high judicial office. The tribunal has extensive powers to require the disclosure or provision of documents and information. Further, when investigating or considering any claim, the tribunal may require the Interception of Communications Commissioner to provide "all such assistance" as it thinks fit. And finally, the tribunal has power to award compensation and to make such other orders as it thinks fit including orders quashing or cancelling any warrant and orders requiring the destruction of any records of information which has been obtained in exercise of any power conferred by a warrant. If a claim is successful, the tribunal is required to make a report of its findings to the Prime Minister.

Khat

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 304W, on khat, whether her Department has undertaken a breakdown of the use of khat by ethnic origin of users. [18550]

James Brokenshire: The preliminary findings on the level of khat use from the British Crime Survey are based on only six months data and as such it is not possible to provide a robust breakdown of estimates of khat use by ethnic origin.

Passports: Islamabad

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports are being held at the embassy in *(a)* Islamabad and *(b)* Abu Dhabi pending return to visa applicants. [17729]

Damian Green *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* I am pleased to report that the Pakistan visa operation has performed well throughout this summer, with the majority of applications being processed within UK Border Agency customer service standards.

The UK Border Agency aims to process 90% of non-settlement applications within 15 working days, 98% within six weeks and 100% within 12 weeks. For settlement applications, the target is to process 95% within 12 weeks and 100% within 24 weeks. Actual processing times for applications resolved during August that were lodged, for example, at the visa application centre in Islamabad, are shown in the following table. The most popular types of visa application are included in the table. Details of processing times for other categories of application, and for processing times for applications lodged at the other visa application centres in Pakistan, can be found on the following website:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk

Percentage

	Processing time			
		weeks		
Application type	*15 (days)*	*6*	*12*	*24*
Family visit	80	91	98	99
PBS Tier 4	90	94	97	99
Settlement	67	78	92	98

As of 14 October, the Islamabad operation has 715 live applications for non-settlement UK visas pending decision and 3,236 in respect of settlement applications, while the Abu Dhabi operation has 1,958 live applications for UK visas pending decision. The figure for Abu Dhabi includes 393 passports held pending the processing of applications from the Gulf.

This information is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

Police: Arrests

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests have been made under section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 *(a)* nationally and *(b)* by each police force since April 2010. [19473]

Nick Herbert: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crime (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery. The data reported to the Home Office cannot be broken down into specific offences.

Information on arrests in 2010-11 is planned for publication in March 2011.

Police: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many police officers there were in Bassetlaw *(a)* on the latest date for which figures are available and *(b)* in 2007. [19106]

Nick Herbert: Police personnel statistics are not collected by the Home Office by parliamentary constituency. The Bassetlaw, Newark and Sherwood (B) Division had 292 police officers on 31 March 2010 and 267 police officers on 31 March 2007.

Police: Compensation

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much compensation has been paid to people whose properties were wrongly forcibly entered by the police in each of the last three years *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Milton Keynes. [19119]

Nick Herbert: Chief police officers are responsible for the exercise of policing powers by their officers and for the management of the budgets for their individual forces. The information on compensation payments is not collected centrally.

Police: Dorset

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding per head of population was allocated to Dorset Police Authority for the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 1996-97. [19071]

Nick Herbert: The information available is set out in the following table.

The Government do not distribute grant to police authorities on a per capita basis. The police funding formula used includes data relating to demographic and social characteristics to reflect the relative needs of each police authority area. Police grants allocated by the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Welsh Assembly Government also take into account the relative tax base of each police authority. Grant allocations in 2010-11 were damped to limit year-on-year variations.

Dorset police authority total grant funding 1996-97 and 2010-11

Police authority	*Total grant funding 1996-97*[1] *(£ million)*	*Resident population 1996-97*[2]	*Total grant funding 2010-11*[3] *(£ million)*	*Resident population 2010*[4]
Dorset	54.7	672,987	75.7	712,842

[1] Total grant funding comprises: general grant (Home Office police grant and Communities and Local Government revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates) and capital provision.

[2] The mid 1996 population estimates are based on the 1991 census. ONS have published a back series for the same period, aligned to the 2001 census.

[3] Total grant funding comprises; general grant (Home Office police grant and Communities and Local Government revenue support grant and national non-domestic rates) and specific grants include crime fighting fund, neighbourhood policing fund/community support officers, basic command unit fund and rule 2 grant, Welsh top-up and capital provision.

[4] The population figures used in the 2010 settlement were 2004-based sub-national projections.

Note:

Under the terms of the neighbourhood policing fund, forces that do not employ the agreed number of PCSOs will have some money deducted from their budget the following year.

Sources:

Grant figures—Home Office

Population data—ONS

Police: Equipment

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will take steps to increase the use of body-worn video and camera equipment by police officers. [19035]

Nick Herbert: Body-worn video and camera equipment is one of a number of tools that can make a contribution to fighting crime and antisocial behaviour. However, decisions on the deployment and use of such equipment are operational matters for chief officers based on their assessment of the policing requirements of their respective forces.

Police: Finance

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much funding was allocated to each police authority area for the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 1996-97. [19070]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is set out in the following table:

Police authority total grant funding, 1996-97 and 2010-11

Force	*1996-97*[1]	*£ million* *2010-11*[2, 3, 4]
Avon and Somerset	135.7	207.3
Bedfordshire	51.0	81.8
Cambridgeshire	57.1	93.9
Cheshire	85.0	137.2
City of London	28.5	109.6
Cleveland	67.6	108.0
Cumbria	51.0	76.9
Derbyshire	81.1	128.8
Devon and Cornwall	132.0	214.2
Dorset	54.7	75.7
Durham	65.2	102.8
Dyfed-Powys	41.6	64.1
Essex	133.9	204.7
Gloucestershire	51.7	69.6
Greater Manchester	315.6	521.9
Gwent	55.8	92.7
Hampshire	152.0	236.7
Hertfordshire	76.8	138.7
Humberside	94.9	145.4
Kent	145.5	223.3
Lancashire	146.7	231.5
Leicestershire	85.4	134.8
Lincolnshire	52.7	75.8
Merseyside	208.9	302.1
Metropolitan	1,563.1	2,292.9
Norfolk	66.7	102.1
North Wales	61.6	93.1
North Yorkshire	61.1	88.6
Northamptonshire	51.2	86.6
Northumbria	178.2	279.3
Nottinghamshire	107.5	160.6
South Wales	138.7	203.6
South Yorkshire	144.3	227.9
Staffordshire	97.6	137.4
Suffolk	52.8	82.2
Surrey	77.9	118.2
Sussex	131.6	195.7
Thames Valley	174.6	276.9
Warwickshire	42.4	63.0
West Mercia	89.3	141.7
West Midlands	317.7	552.0
West Yorkshire	239.5	384.8
Wiltshire	52.3	76.3
Total England and Wales	6,018.5	9,339.3

[1] Total grant funding comprises: General Grant (Home Office Police Grant and Communities and Local Government Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates) and Capital Provision.

[2] Total grant funding comprises: General Grant (Home Office Police Grant and Communities and Local Government Revenue Support Grant and National Non-Domestic Rates) and Specific Grants include—Crime Fighting Fund, Neighbourhood Policing Fund/Community Support Officers, Basic Command Unit Fund and Rule 2 Grant, Welsh Top-up and Capital Provision. Please note: Under the terms of the Neighbourhood Policing Fund, forces that do not employ the agreed number of PCSOs will have some money deducted from their budget the following year.

[3] Total grant funding excludes the following for comparison purposes: Dedicated Security Grant, Counter Terrorism Funding, Pensions Top-up Grant and some minor grant flows.

[4] Total grant funding figures taken after the in-year reductions to Core Government funding of £125 million finalised in July.

Police: Pay

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what payments to the *(a)* current and *(b)* previous chief constable of Essex police (i) have been made during each of the last three years and (ii) are planned for each of the next two years. [15709]

Nick Herbert: Chief officers' pay and benefits are negotiated nationally through the Police Negotiating Board and provisions for these are contained in the 2003 Police Regulations and Determinations. It is for the police authority to determine payments other than salary to the chief constable, in accordance with legislative requirements. Information about these payments is held by police authorities and is not held centrally by the Home Office.

The salary for the chief constable of Essex police for each of the last three years is shown in the following table.

The Government's policy is to freeze the pay of public sector workers earning over £21,000 for two years. We would expect this to apply to police officers, but future decisions on officers' pay will take account of the review of remuneration and conditions of service and any recommendations from the Police Negotiating Board.

The salary for the chief constable of Essex police for each of the last three years is shown in the following table:

Chief constable salary

	£
From 1 December 2007	137,211
From 1 September 2008	140,847
From 1 September 2009	144,510
From 1 September 2010	148,194

Police: Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many days each police force lost to sickness absence *(a)* in total and *(b)* per officer in each of the last three years. [18814]

Nick Herbert: The available data are provided in the following tables which show the total contracted hours lost to sickness by police force, 2007-08 to 2009-10. Figures are provided as 'hours lost' rather than 'days lost', as days lost to sickness are not collected centrally. This provides more accurate figures as it allows for the effect of different shift lengths.

Total contracted hours lost to sickness, by police force, 2007-08 to 2009-10[1, 2]

	2007-08			
	Police staff[3]	*Police officers*		
	Hours lost	*Hours lost*	*Number of officers*	*Hours lost per officer*
Avon and Somerset	279,280	283,296	3,407	83
Bedfordshire	69,073	111,583	1,207	92
Cambridgeshire	84,087	113,233	1,379	82
Cheshire	118,479	129,479	2,181	59
Cleveland	68,978	107,024	1,692	63
Cumbria	63,142	90,912	1,246	73
Derbyshire	89,851	152,707	2,095	73
Devon and Cornwall	216,410	267,228	3,529	76
Dorset	85,050	109,082	1,518	72
Durham	65,630	118,117	1,632	72
Dyfed-Powys	65,963	94,055	1,194	79
Essex	212,218	244,024	3,385	72
Gloucestershire	75,407	115,511	1,353	85
Greater Manchester	327,095	603,624	8,034	75
Gwent	81,245	139,511	1,487	94
Hampshire	189,525	250,608	3,912	64
Hertfordshire	138,882	173,323	2,162	80
Humberside	97,242	112,863	2,243	50
Kent	191,132	248,472	3,718	67
Lancashire	150,713	248,684	3,675	68
Leicestershire	113,278	152,801	2,241	68
Lincolnshire	67,255	98,677	1,201	82
London, City of	22,521	43,334	830	52
Merseyside	210,672	295,674	4,477	66
Metropolitan Police	1,266,688	1,757,619	31,460	56
Norfolk	83,018	120,546	1,578	76
Northamptonshire	76,567	79,856	1,309	61
Northumbria	149,370	309,263	3,983	78
North Wales	55,789	99,459	1,579	63
North Yorkshire	104,083	133,364	1,581	84
Nottinghamshire	159,620	186,740	2,369	79
South Wales	141,232	306,786	3,244	95
South Yorkshire	200,673	240,930	3,201	75
Staffordshire	126,934	193,350	2,269	85
Suffolk	70,791	99,844	1,319	76
Surrey	117,200	133,628	1,944	69
Sussex	201,575	236,489	3,075	77
Thames Valley	221,754	293,268	4,186	70
Warwickshire	74,868	92,691	1,036	90
West Mercia	140,973	184,595	2,486	74
West Midlands	324,456	587,302	8,412	70
West Yorkshire	275,824	389,012	5,822	67
Wiltshire	98,281	115,805	1,210	96
Total	6,972,820	9,864,366	141,859	70

2008-09

	Police staff[3]	Police officers		
	Hours lost	Hours lost	Number of officers	Hours lost per officer
Avon and Somerset	260,928	317,150	3,355	95
Bedfordshire	70,132	90,826	1,244	73
Cambridgeshire	88,268	116,197	1,450	80
Cheshire	111,190	113,254	2,180	52
Cleveland	68,212	101,653	1,756	58
Cumbria	78,621	83,958	1,284	65
Derbyshire	82,072	134,960	2,137	63
Devon and Cornwall	199,253	257,557	3,556	72
Dorset	91,909	107,349	1,512	71
Durham	66,271	109,677	1,588	69
Dyfed-Powys	37,784	57,403	1,197	48
Essex	213,384	246,184	3,484	71
Gloucestershire	73,215	103,205	1,372	75
Greater Manchester	353,729	524,989	8,232	64
Gwent	83,161	147,317	1,438	102
Hampshire	196,680	242,568	3,811	64
Hertfordshire	151,945	176,399	2,172	81
Humberside	110,427	110,997	2,110	53
Kent	192,391	243,886	3,799	64
Lancashire	155,294	188,447	3,753	50
Leicestershire	98,886	117,227	2,363	50
Lincolnshire	77,665	95,704	1,229	78
London, City of	23,909	36,197	813	44
Merseyside	197,316	301,056	4,494	67
Metropolitan Police	1,208,950	1,727,755	32,610	53
Norfolk	95,796	123,653	1,668	74
Northamptonshire	74,065	62,458	1,326	47
Northumbria	147,453	268,203	4,111	65
North Wales	63,209	106,006	1,586	67
North Yorkshire	95,973	123,104	1,460	84
Nottinghamshire	155,372	174,299	2,408	72
South Wales	134,192	293,434	3,146	93
South Yorkshire	213,912	221,364	3,053	73
Staffordshire	131,584	189,389	2,211	86
Suffolk[3]	—	—	1,291	—
Surrey	134,050	122,932	1,872	66
Sussex	217,044	229,711	3,196	72
Thames Valley	220,804	266,064	4,317	62
Warwickshire	63,226	100,394	994	101
West Mercia	160,629	168,618	2,471	68
West Midlands	266,137	464,709	8,637	54
West Yorkshire	289,576	403,193	5,854	69
Wiltshire	93,387	108,914	1,229	89
Total	6,848,000	9,178,361	143,770	64

2009-10

	Police staff[3]	Police officers		
	Hours lost	Hours lost	Number of officers	Hours lost per officer
Avon and Somerset	218,924	240,253	3,302	73
Bedfordshire	83,451	88,117	1,246	71
Cambridgeshire	90,802	95,316	1,471	65
Cheshire	95,697	98,397	2,155	46
Cleveland	58,594	87,062	1,724	50
Cumbria	72,937	90,131	1,238	73
Derbyshire	92,577	132,494	2,074	64
Devon and Cornwall	211,290	261,306	3,556	73
Dorset	99,891	95,693	1,486	64
Durham	77,506	103,425	1,507	69
Dyfed-Powys	49,831	82,126	1,195	69
Essex	232,834	234,760	3,606	65

	2009-10			
	Police staff[3]		Police officers	
	Hours lost	Hours lost	Number of officers	Hours lost per officer
Gloucestershire	67,675	100,609	1,309	77
Greater Manchester	360,672	547,773	8,148	67
Gwent	79,173	106,905	1,437	74
Hampshire	96,555	120,712	3,748	32
Hertfordshire	136,114	137,857	2,130	65
Humberside	90,131	93,859	2,058	46
Kent	199,509	221,283	3,787	58
Lancashire	161,842	223,784	3,649	61
Leicestershire	92,714	106,436	2,317	46
Lincolnshire	79,475	119,403	1,206	99
London, City of	22,699	42,640	852	50
Merseyside	209,892	304,163	4,516	67
Metropolitan Police	1,240,001	1,767,339	33,367	53
Norfolk	87,164	102,755	1,662	62
Northamptonshire	87,421	74,093	1,343	55
Northumbria	162,765	249,849	4,187	60
North Wales	66,913	109,296	1,590	69
North Yorkshire	89,196	95,986	1,486	65
Nottinghamshire	138,200	160,437	2,409	67
South Wales	155,178	269,962	3,148	86
South Yorkshire	196,337	170,991	2,953	58
Staffordshire	136,221	176,142	2,161	82
Suffolk	39,344	58,899	1,246	47
Surrey	145,888	124,528	1,890	66
Sussex	207,022	206,261	3,213	64
Thames Valley	251,601	295,599	4,434	67
Warwickshire	67,674	94,909	973	98
West Mercia	144,268	173,596	2,391	73
West Midlands	252,498	495,483	8,626	57
West Yorkshire	249,995	351,388	5,758	61
Wiltshire	69,924	64,476	1,181	55
Total	6,768,392	8,776,492	143,734	61

[1] Figures are provisional and have not been verified by forces.

[2] Figures on sickness absence are collected as hours lost. Figures on days lost are not collected centrally.

[3] Figures for staff include police staff, police community support officers, designated officers and traffic wardens. They do not include police officers.

Police: Working Hours

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much each police force spent on overtime *(a)* in total and *(b)* on average per officer in each of the last three years. [18866]

Nick Herbert: Information about police service expenditure, including overtime, is available on the website of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance Accountants

http://www.tisonline.net/

Two tables follow: Table 1 shows the past spend on overtime by force (split by officer and staff overtime); Table 2 calculates overtime spend by officer, based on data from Table 1 and police officer strength recorded in Home Office Annual Data Returns.

Table 1: Spend on overtime by force (split by officer and staff overtime)

£ million

	Spend on officer overtime			Spend on police staff and PCSO overtime			Total spend on overtime		
Force	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10
Avon and Somerset	6.996	6.535	6.239	1.216	1.403	1.348	8.212	7.938	7.587
Bedfordshire	3.993	3.962	4.079	0.401	0.447	0.485	4.394	4.409	4.564
Cambridgeshire	4.238	4.584	3.37	0.32	0.481	0.406	4.558	5.065	3.776
Cheshire	6.925	4.425	4.554	1.677	2.08	1.415	8.602	6.505	5.969
Cleveland	4.369	3.81313	3.306	0.352	0.33	0.339	4.721	4.15	3.645
Cumbria	2.444	1.712	1.359	0.741	0.748	0.385	3.185	2.46	1.744
Derbyshire	4.854	4.256	3.533	0.791	0.761	0.47	5.645	5.017	4.003

Table 1: Spend on overtime by force (split by officer and staff overtime)

£ million

	Spend on officer overtime			*Spend on police staff and PCSO overtime*			*Total spend on overtime*		
Force	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Devon and Cornwall	6.548	6.467	5.12	1.113	1.295	1.183	7.661	7.762	6.303
Dorset	3.243	3.181	2.608	0.555	0.533	0.466	3.798	3.714	3.074
Durham	3.596	2.702	2.678	0.282	0.348	0.34	3.878	3.05	3.018
Dyfed-Powys	2.566	2.329	2.339	0.269	0.29	0.307	2.835	2.619	2.646
Essex	11.732	9.623	7.714	1.561	1.47	1.157	13.293	11.093	8.871
Gloucestershire	3.353	2.662	3.519	0.378	0.327	0.295	3.731	2.989	3.814
Greater Manchester	23.322	23.319	20.875	3.255	3.534	2.766	26.577	26.853	23.641
Gwent	4.134	3.548	3.299	1.265	1.277	1.203	5.399	4.825	4.502
Hampshire	11.48	8.871	8.091	2.012	1.575	1.187	13.492	10.446	9.278
Hertfordshire	7.272	7.196	5.663	1.107	1.124	1.166	8.379	8.32	6.829
Humberside	6.874	5.402	5.598	1.295	1.184	1.129	8.169	6.586	6.727
Kent	[1]—	10.084	7.055	0.564	2.286	1.597	[1]—	12.37	8.652
Lancashire	8.918	7.801	7.004	1.072	1.121	1.052	9.99	8.922	8.056
Leicestershire	5.476	5.169	4.527	0.583	0.602	0.381	6.059	5.771	4.908
Lincolnshire	3.708	2.68	2.49	0.418	0.368	0.373	4.126	3.048	2.863
London, City of	2.731	2.141	2.342	0.283	0.223	0.211	3.014	2.364	2.553
Merseyside	11.071	10.8465	10.853	1.876	1.84	2.203	12.947	12.69	13.056
Metropolitan Police	144.957	137.876	[1]—	18.67	17.396	[1]—	163.62	155.27	[1]—
Norfolk	4.201	3.298	3.034	0.54	0.54	0.468	4.741	3.838	3.502
Northamptonshire	3.478	2.829	[1]—	1.005	1.083	[1]—	4.483	3.912	[1]—
Northumbria	7.878	7.424	[1]—	0.017	1.178	[1]—	7.895	8.602	[1]—
North Wales	3.626	2.738	3.056	0.489	0.504	0.583	4.115	3.242	3.639
North Yorkshire	2.996	2.477	3.992	0.744	0.669	0.845	3.74	3.146	4.837
Nottinghamshire	[1]—	5.469	6.057	[1]—	0.848	0.727	[1]—	6.317	6.784
South Wales	[1]—	6.449	6.18	[1]—	0.771	0.58	[1]—	7.22	6.76
South Yorkshire	10.167	8.329	9.209	0.456	2.09	2.076	10.623	10.419	11.285
Staffordshire	5.104	4.969	5.277	0.621	0.582	0.603	5.725	5.551	5.88
Suffolk	3.543	2.856	2.1	0.38	0.454	0.414	3.923	3.31	2.514
Surrey	5.93	4.643	0.088	1.841	1.962	0.701	7.771	6.605	0.789
Sussex	5.946	6.598	6.684	0.629	0.92	0.912	6.575	7.518	7.596
Thames Valley	13.762	[1]—	10.767	2.35	[1]—	2.187	16.112	[1]—	12.954
Warwickshire	3.753	3.33	2.341	0.702	0.434	0.435	4.455	3.764	2.776
West Mercia	5.56	5.77	4.864	0.641	0.742	0.576	6.201	6.512	5.44
West Midlands	24.152	21.301	17.95	2.27	2.16	1.9774	26.422	23.461	19.92
West Yorkshire	18.128	13.79	12.496	6.889	7.395	2.708	25.017	21.185	15.204
Wiltshire	[1]—	3.18	[1]—	[1]—	0.568	[1]—	[1]—	3.748	[1]—

[1] Data unavailable

Source:

Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy

Table 2: Overtime spend per officer

	Officer strength FTE at March 31 of financial year			*Spend per officer (£)*		
Force	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Avon and Somerset	3,407	3,355	3,302	2,054	1,948	1,890
Bedfordshire	1,207	1,246	1,246	3,309	3,180	3,274
Cambridgeshire	1,380	1,450	1,471	3,072	3,162	2,290
Cheshire	2,181	2,180	2,142	3,175	2,030	2,126
Cleveland	1,692	1,756	1,724	2,582	2,171	1,917
Cumbria	1,246	1,284	1,238	1,961	1,333	1,098
Derbyshire	2,095	2,137	2,074	2,317	1,992	1,703
Devon and Cornwall	3,529	3,556	3,561	1,855	1,819	1,438
Dorset	1,518	1,512	1,486	2,137	2,104	1,754
Durham	1,632	1,589	1,507	2,203	1,701	1,777
Dyfed-Powys	1,194	1,197	1,195	2,149	1,945	1,958
Essex	3,385	3,484	3,606	3,466	2,762	2,139
Gloucestershire	1,353	1,371	1,309	2,478	1,942	2,689
Greater Manchester	8,034	8,232	8,148	2,903	2,833	2,562

Table 2: Overtime spend per officer

Force	*Officer strength FTE at March 31 of financial year*			*Spend per officer (£)*		
	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Gwent	1,487	1,438	1,437	2,781	2,467	2,296
Hampshire	3,912	3,811	3,748	2,934	2,328	2,159
Hertfordshire	2,162	2,172	2,130	3,364	3,313	2,659
Humberside	2,243	2,110	2,058	3,064	2,560	2,721
Kent	3,718	3,799	3,834	[1]—	2,655	1,840
Lancashire	3,675	3,753	3,649	2,427	2,079	1,919
Leicestershire	2,241	2,363	2,317	2,443	2,187	1,954
Lincolnshire	1,201	1,229	1,206	3,086	2,180	2,064
London, City of	830	813	852	3,288	2,632	2,748
Merseyside	4,477	4,494	4,516	2,473	2,414	2,403
Metropolitan Police	31,460	32,610	33,367	4,608	4,228	[1]—
Norfolk	1,575	1,668	1,665	2,668	1,977	1,822
Northamptonshire	1,309	1,326	1,343	2,657	2,133	[1]—
Northumbria	3,983	4,111	4,187	1,978	1,806	[1]—
North Wales	1,579	1,586	1,590	2,297	1,726	1,922
North Yorkshire	1,581	1,460	1,486	1,895	1,697	2,687
Nottinghamshire	2,369	2,408	2,409	[1]—	2,271	2,514
South Wales	3,244	3,146	3,148	[1]—	2,050	1,963
South Yorkshire	3,201	3,053	2,953	3,176	2,728	3,119
Staffordshire	2,269	2,211	2,161	2,249	2,248	2,442
Suffolk	1,319	1,291	1,246	2,687	2,212	1,686
Surrey	1,944	1,872	1,890	3,051	2,480	47
Sussex	3,075	3,196	3,213	1,934	2,065	2,080
Thames Valley	4,186	4,317	4,434	3,288	[1]—	2,428
Warwickshire	1,036	994	973	3,624	3,352	2,406
West Mercia	2,486	2,471	2,391	2,236	2,335	2,034
West Midlands	8,412	8,637	8,626	2,871	2,466	2,081
West Yorkshire	5,822	5,854	5,759	3,114	2,356	2,170
Wiltshire	1,210	1,250	1,181	[1]—	2,544	[1]—

[1] Data unavailable

Note:

It should be noted that some officers will claim no overtime during a year, but the Home Office does hold information on the number of these officers.

Source:

Home Office Annual Data Returns

Serious Crime Divisions: Prostitution

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many brothel visits have been made by officers from Serious Crime Division 9 in the Metropolitan police area in each month since January 2010. [16073]

James Brokenshire: The Metropolitan police have provided the following table which shows the number of visits carried out by SCD9, broken down by the borough in which they were carried out.

BOCU brothel visits 2010

	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*Total*
Waltham Forest	—	5	11	4	—	3	2	6	31
Hackney	—	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	4
Newham	—	4	4	1	—	2	—	—	11
Tower Hamlets	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	12	13
Greenwich	—	—	8	—	—	—	—	3	11
Westminster	8	2	—	8	—	—	1	1	20
Camden	2	—	1	—	—	1	1	8	13
Wandsworth	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	1
Islington	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Hammersmith and Fulham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Lambeth	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1
Barking and Dagenham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1
Bromley	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	2

BOCU brothel visits 2010

	January	*February*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*August*	*Total*
Kingston upon Thames	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Ealing	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Brent	—	—	—	—	—	—	7	—	7
Barnet	—	—	1	—	—	1	2	—	4
Haringey	2	1	—	1	—	1	1	—	6
Enfield	—	—	—	—	—	1	1	—	2
Redbridge	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1
Lewisham	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Kensington and Chelsea	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Southwark	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Bexley	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Havering	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Croydon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Hillingdon	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Sutton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Merton	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Harrow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Richmond upon Thames	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
Hounslow	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0
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Work Permits

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many grants of settlement have been made *(a)* on the basis of employment with a work permit and *(b)* to (i) spouses and (ii) dependants of those granted settlement on the basis of employment with a work permit in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [19083]

Damian Green: The latest available quarterly statistics (Q3 2008 to Q2 2010) are provided in the following table.

Data on grants of settlement made on the basis of employment with a work permit to both principal applicants and spouses and dependants combined are published in Table 4.3 in the quarterly series the 'Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom'. Settlement data for third quarter 2010 are scheduled for publication on 25 November 2010.

Home Office statistical publications are available from the Library and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Grants of settlement[1, 2, 3] by selected category of grant, excluding EEA and Swiss nationals[4], Q3 2008 to Q2 2010

Number of persons

	2008		*2009[5, 6]*				*2010[6]*	
Broad category of grant	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*	*Q3*	*Q4*	*Q1*	*Q2*
Employment with a work permit after five years	5,585	5,710	6,510	6,140	6,605	6,165	7,675	5,915
spouses and dependants	7,360	8,185	9,110	9,245	9,835	8,620	11,060	7,965
Of which:								
spouses	3,030	3,350	3,655	3,685	4,105	3,660	4,605	3,255
dependants	4,335	4,840	5,455	5,560	5,730	4,965	6,455	4,710

[1] Figures rounded to the nearest five and may not sum to the totals shown because of independent rounding.

[2] Includes reconsideration cases and the outcome of appeals.

[3] May include a small number of cases in which a decision is recorded twice, where an individual has dual nationality.

[4] Data exclude dependants of EEA and Swiss nationals in confirmed relationships granted permanent residence.

[5] Revised figures.

[6] Provisional figures.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) pursuant to the answer of 7 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 179W, on Audit Commission, what steps his Department is taking to develop a mutual model for the Audit Commission; and if he will make a statement; [18537]

(2) whether he has assessed the merits of establishing a fully mutual model to undertake the functions of the Audit Commission; and if he will make a statement. [18555]

Robert Neill: As my right hon. Friend, the Secretary of State told the House on 7 September 2010, *Official*

Report, columns 179-186, we will consider a range of options for moving the Audit Commission's in-house practice to the private sector. The Government would be happy to see a mutual set up by existing Audit Commission staff, if this proves to be appropriate and practical. The Commission has appointed Gareth Davies as managing director of its audit practice and he is leading the practice's work on these matters.

Charities: Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the monetary value of local authority funding for *(a)* all charities, *(b)* charities working with children, young people and families in each year since 2007-08; if he will make an estimate of the equivalent figure for (i) 2011-12, (ii) 2012-13, (iii) 2013-14 and (iv) 2014-15; and if he will make a statement. [19267]

Andrew Stunell: The latest figures (for 2007-08 from the NCVO's UK Civil Society Almanac 2010) show that local authorities fund the voluntary sector to the value of £6.6 billion. Data on funding to charities working with children, young people and families are not held centrally.

Spending decisions are, and will continue to be, a matter for local authorities. We have a rich diversity of voluntary organisations, charities, faith groups, co-operatives, social enterprises and local housing trusts—all of who already make a huge contribution to local life. The big society means using their potential and involving them even more in delivering what people want. I do not expect local authorities to respond by passing on disproportionate cuts to other service providers, especially the voluntary sector.

I also draw the attention of my hon. Friend to my Department's press release of 14 October 2010 on the valuable role of the voluntary sector, a copy of which I have placed in the Library.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18738]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government was created in 2006.

We are currently carrying out a review of all allowances paid in DCLG. The following allowances are payable to officials in the Main Department:

Temporary Responsibility Allowance
Recruitment and Retention Allowance
Procurement Allowances
Accountancy Allowances
Analyst Allowances—introduced in 2009
Supervisory Allowances
Private Office Allowances
On-Call Allowances
Fast Stream Allowances—being withdrawn
Detached Duty Allowances
Duty Officer Allowances

We also pay the following historical allowances to a small number of staff on a reserved rights basis:

Market Related Allowance
Typing Proficiency Allowance
ADP Allowance

In addition, non-consolidated payments are made to high performing staff at the end of each performance year and the Department operates a scheme for all staff below the senior civil service under which individuals or teams may receive a small non-consolidated award in recognition of an outstanding contribution over a limited period.

The following table shows the amount paid to officials in allowances and bonuses since that date.

		£
	Allowances	*Bonuses*
2006-07	514,000	838,250
2007-08	569,000	1,018,350
2008-09	522,000	1,284,549
2009-10	674,000	1,188,133

Fire Services: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* retained and *(b)* full-time fire crew there were at each fire station in Bassetlaw on the latest date for which figures are available. [19105]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest levels of staffing of wholetime and retained firefighters are collected for each Fire and Rescue Authority. Figures for Nottinghamshire and England are provided in the table.

Levels of staffing of wholetime and retained firefighters in Nottinghamshire and England in 2009-10

	2009-10
Wholetime[1]	
Nottinghamshire	565
England	29,735
Retained duty system[2]	
Nottinghamshire	198
England	11,899

[1] Full-time equivalent
[2] In 24-hour units of cover
Source:
Fire and Rescue Services Annual Returns to CLG

Fire Services: Finance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future funding of fire authorities; and if he will make a statement. [18670]

Robert Neill: The provisional Local Government Finance Settlement for the period from 2011-12 will be announced in late November or early December, as in previous years. This includes the provisional formula grant allocations for fire and rescue authorities.

Fire resource expenditure will reduce by 13% in real terms over the spending review period. Within this, central Government grants to local authorities will be reduced by 25% over the period. These savings will be back-loaded to years three and four of the period so that fire and rescue authorities will have the time to make changes and reforms necessary without impacting on the quality or breadth of services offered to their communities. Areas where we believe significant saving can be found include:

Flexible staffing arrangements
Improved sickness management
Pay restraint and recruitment freezes
Shared services/back office functions
Improved procurement
Sharing chief fire officers and other senior staff
Voluntary amalgamations.

Homelessness

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what methodology his Department uses to collect data on homeless people; and whether he plans to take further steps to identify as such homeless people who do not present themselves to local authorities for assistance. [18431]

Grant Shapps: Data are collected quarterly from local housing authorities on their activities under homelessness legislation and are published by the Department on the CLG website. These statistics include information on decisions on applications for housing assistance, the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and the number of households in temporary accommodation arranged by local authorities under homelessness legislation:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Information is also collected on rough sleeping. Since 1998, only councils in areas with a known, or suspected, rough sleeping problem were required to conduct an official rough sleeper count—which meant that only 70 councils submitted information to central Government. Figures published in July 2010 showed that under this previous method, on any given night there were 440 rough sleepers in England. However, when the remaining 256 councils provided estimates of the scale of the problem in their areas, this added a further estimated 807 rough sleepers—taking the national total to 1,247 rough sleepers on any given night. These figures are published on the CLG website here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/roughsleepingcount2010

Under new guidance all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

The Department also collects data on the users of Supporting People services which include some rough sleepers and single homeless people with support needs. These statistics are published quarterly by the department on the CLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/supportingpeople/

One of the issues the recently established Ministerial Working Group on Preventing and Tackling Homelessness will consider is how to increase transparency of information available to communities to support them in meeting the needs of homeless people.

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of people who are homeless *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in London, *(c)* in Lambeth borough and *(d)* in Streatham constituency; [18499]

(2) what definition of homelessness his Department uses for the purposes of compiling statistical information. [18554]

Grant Shapps: Statutory homelessness data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). If a settled home is not immediately available, the authority must secure temporary accommodation until a settled home becomes available and this information is also collected. These are published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness via the CLG website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

The following table gives the most recent figures for households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty and households in temporary accommodation in England, London and Lambeth.

Quarter 2, 2010

	Number and rate per 1,000 households	
	Households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty during the quarter	*Households in temporary accommodation at the end of the quarter*
Lambeth	222 (1.8)	1,546 (12.8)
London	2,300 (0.7)	37,910 (11.9)
England	10,100 (0.5)	50,400 (2.3)

Notes:
1. Figures are provisional.
2. Totals may not equal the sum of components because of rounding.
3. Lambeth figure is as reported. London and England figures include estimates for any non-responding authorities.
Source:
P1E quarterly returns.

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Under new guidance, all councils across England will now provide information on rough sleeping. This move follows consultation with homelessness charities and councils and is aimed at getting a clearer picture of the scale of the problem in each area so more targeted support can be provided to some of the most vulnerable in society.

The following table gives the street count and estimates in England, London and Lambeth for 2010.

	Street counts	*Estimates*	*Total*
Lambeth	9	—	9
London	241	76	317
England	440	807	1,247

Notes:

1. The 2010 local authority street counts were carried out between January 2009 and May 2010.

2. Local authorities who did not carry out a count submitted a single figure estimate of the number of people sleeping rough on any given night as at June 2010.

The figures provided in this answer are available both in the Library and via the CLG website at the links provided.

The Department does not collect data on homelessness at parliamentary constituency level.

Local Government

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to introduce proposals to devolve powers and responsibility to town and parish councils; and if he will make a statement. [19093]

Robert Neill: Town and parish councils already have a wide range of powers at their disposal. In the forthcoming localism Bill we intend to make provision to achieve our commitments to devolve further powers to local government and communities, including the area of parish involvement in neighbourhood planning.

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to enable local authorities to reintroduce the committee system. [19248]

Robert Neill: As set out in 'The Coalition: Our Programme for Government', we are committed to allow councils to return to the committee system should they wish to. We intend to provide for this in our forthcoming localism Bill.

Local Government: Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what information his Department holds on the number of days lost to sickness absence in each local authority in each of the last three years. [18882]

Robert Neill: The information requested is not held centrally, because councils manage their own work forces and the Department has no direct role in local government work force matters, including councils' policy on managing absence.

Non-domestic Rates: Wolverhampton

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what effect on levels of revenue the removal of business rate relief on *(a)* industrial property, *(b)* retail property, *(c)* commercial property and *(d)* office accommodation has had in respect of Wolverhampton. [19001]

Robert Neill: Information is not available centrally on the effect of the repeal of business rate relief on revenue levels split by the property types requested.

Planning Permission

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government in what circumstances a local planning decision may be called in for determination by the Secretary of State; and if he will make a statement. [19143]

Robert Neill: The power to call in planning applications for Secretary of State determination is set out in s.77 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. This gives Ministers wide discretion about how to use the call-in power. Call-in policy is set out in the Caborn statement of 1999 of 16 June 1999, *Official Report*, column 138W, which makes it clear that Ministers will be very selective about what is called in.

Localising decision making and planning is central to the Government's policy. Ministers have made it clear that they will exercise the power to call in only very sparingly where matters of significant national interest and policy are concerned.

Residential Property Tribunal Service: Mobile Homes

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to lay before the House secondary legislation to transfer jurisdiction for park homes to the Residential Property Tribunal. [19183]

Grant Shapps: The secondary legislation to transfer the jurisdiction will be laid before the House as soon as possible.

Social Rented Housing: Repairs and Maintenance

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to review the provisions of the Housing Act 2002 and associated guidance on housing allocation to enable positive behaviour by tenants in respect of property maintenance to be taken into account in the allocation of social housing. [18551]

Andrew Stunell: Section 167 (2A) of the Housing Act 1996 already gives local authorities the power to take into account certain factors for the purposes of determining relative priorities between applicants in the reasonable preference categories when allocating accommodation. Examples of such factors are given in the legislation and include any behaviour of the applicant (or a member of their household) which affects his or her suitability to be a tenant. This would include good tenant behaviour as well as poor behaviour.

We have no plans to review the legislation in this respect.

Voluntary Organisations: Newton Abbot

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much funding his Department allocated to voluntary groups in Newton Abbot in each year since 2005. [18564]

Robert Neill: The Department's records do not hold information about grant payments to the voluntary sector by geographical area so the information requested could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, if my hon. Friend would like to provide us with a list of voluntary groups in Newton Abbot we could let her know the grant payments made over the period. In addition, as part of the Department's transparency agenda, grant spending over £500 for 2008-09 and 2009-10 can be found online on my Department's website.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Opening of Parliament

Kate Hoey: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost was of the State Opening of Parliament in 2010. [18650]

Sir Stuart Bell: The cost to the House of Commons of the State Opening of Parliament in 2010 is estimated to have been £177,000, which represents the Commons contribution to costs shared with the House of Lords.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Private Members' Bills

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Leader of the House if he will bring forward proposals to provide more time for the committee stage of private Members' Bills. [18994]

Sir George Young: I am giving consideration to how the time available for private Members' Bills in the current long Session should be increased, including time available in Committee.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Referendums: Scotland

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister whether he made an assessment of the findings of the 2007 Gould report on Scottish elections before selecting 5 May 2011 as the date for the proposed referendum on the voting system for election to the House of Commons. [18235]

Mr Harper: The Gould Report identified a number of contributory factors which led to a high number of spoilt ballot papers in 2007. Most of these, such as the introduction of a new electoral system and combined ballot papers, will not be in play on 5 May 2011.

The Report also recognised that there are benefits to combining elections such as reducing cost, achieving higher turnout and minimising disruption to voters. In evidence to the Scottish Affairs Committee on 21 September 2010, Mr Ron Gould said:

> "I do not believe that the same factors which led to voter confusion and the large number of rejected ballots at the last Scottish Parliamentary and Municipal elections would arise if both the (Scottish) Parliamentary Election and the Referendum were held on the same date. The marking of yes or no on a referendum ballot is much easier to understand and carry out than the requirements of marking an STV ballot."

The Electoral Commission will be responsible for running the referendum. After the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill was introduced, the Commission released a statement on 22 July 2010 announcing that they believe it should be possible to deliver the different polls if the key risks are properly managed. We are working closely with the Electoral Commission and others to maximise the benefits of combination and ensure the polls on 5 May 2011 are delivered effectively.

EDUCATION

Departmental Contracts

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the monetary value of the contracts between his Department and private sector companies which will be cancelled under his Department's planned spending reductions. [10169]

Tim Loughton: We are in the process of reviewing contracts from which savings can be made through renegotiation or termination. The total value of those contracts and the potential savings will not be known until the full review is complete.

Departmental Manpower

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* officials and *(b)* external advisers are working on the forthcoming Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities. [16560]

Sarah Teather: Work on the Green Paper on special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) is being led by three full-time equivalent officials. These officials are working closely with colleagues in the Department for Education's SEND division, as well as officials from across the Department and across Government.

This Division also employs one professional adviser who supports the Division's overall activity, which includes advising on aspects of the Green Paper.

To inform the Green Paper, the Department has sought a number of views through informal discussions with experts, voluntary organisations, local authorities, teachers, parents and a call for views consultation.

Sixth Form Education: Capital Investment

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to allocate capital funding to sixth form colleges funded by the Young People's Learning Agency at the same level as that allocated to further education colleges through the Train to Gain programme for the purposes of renovating buildings and facilities. [15590]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The Capital Review announced on 5 July 2010, in the context of the budget pressures and emerging policy, is examining the Department's capital programmes including capital funding to sixth form colleges, and will make recommendations on the future shape of all its capital investment for the next spending review period and beyond. It will conclude its work by the end of the calendar year. We intend to determine capital allocations as soon as possible thereafter. The Review team has been tasked with exploring new approaches to school building, and ensuring investment is focused on areas in the greatest need—those educational establishments in most disrepair, to deal with the urgent demand for primary school places from rising birth rates, and ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

Teenage Pregnancy

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to reduce the number of teenagers who become pregnant in England. [15616]

Sarah Teather: The reduction in the under-18 conception rate over the last decade—to the point where it is at its lowest level for over 20 years—is positive. But it does not mask the fact that England still has high teenage pregnancy rates compared with many other countries.

We want local areas to continue to prioritise reducing teenage pregnancy rates, using the international evidence and the lessons from areas where teenage pregnancy rates have fallen fastest, to accelerate progress. There are clear social and economic benefits from investing in actions to prevent teenage pregnancies and improve outcomes for teenage parents and their children. These will contribute to local strategies to: reduce child poverty and health inequalities; and improve public health.

We are currently reviewing the curriculum, including the place of sex and relationships education (SRE) within it. We will be announcing our plans later this year. But whatever the status of SRE in future, we are clear that it should focus more on relationships. We know that parents are concerned about the early sexualisation of children and the worrying levels of violence reported in teenage relationships and believe that high quality SRE can help children and young people to: cope with the pressures they face to have sex—from both their peers and the media; and to understand what is meant by sexual consent.

We are also considering how best to ensure that sufficient accessible, young people-friendly contraceptive and sexual health services are available in each local area, so that sexually active young people do not risk having unprotected sex, which can result in an unplanned pregnancy or a sexually transmitted infection. We will be publishing a Public Health White Paper later this year.

UN Convention on the Rights of the Child

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what programmes and projects his Department has funded to raise public awareness of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in the last five years. [17433]

Sarah Teather: The Government are committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) and to raising awareness of the Convention.

The Department has supported and funded a number of initiatives aimed at raising awareness of the Convention in the last five years such as:

Collaborating with the Ministry of Justice and the British Institute of Human Rights (BIHR) to develop a curriculum resource for teachers on the UNCRC, to be used with Key Stage 3 pupils. Right Here, Right Now - Teaching Citizenship through Human Rights was published in 2007;

The Department provided funding to UNICEF for its Rights Respecting Schools initiative which encourages and helps schools to embed the UNCRC into their ethos and curriculum;

In July 2008, the Department held an event for children and young people and key stakeholders to discuss UK's reporting to the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and a follow up event was held in September 2009 to discuss the UN Committees Concluding Observations;

As part of the 20th anniversary of the ratification of the UNCRC on 20 November 2009), the Department, with the Office of the Children's Commissioner held a celebration event led by children which was aimed at raising awareness of the UNCRC among children and young people.

The Government operate a number of web-based portals, enabling children and adults to access information about the Convention. For parents and young people, DirectGov has a popular UNCRC section. For children under 10, DirectGovKids has a section on the UNCRC, developed in conjunction with UNICEF. There is also specific information available on the web for people who work with children, for example, through teachernet.

Voluntary Organisations: Contracts

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what contracts his Department has awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years; and what the monetary value was of each such contract. [17607]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* To gather the information required to identify all the contracts and monetary value of each contract awarded to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years would exceed the disproportionate cost threshold.

Details of all new central Government contracts will be published in full from January 2011.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Mrs Hodgson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question *(a)* 14560 on the school lunch grant, *(b)* 14561 on the home access scheme and *(c)* 14564 on the School Food Trust. [17066]

Sarah Teather: The responses to the hon. Member's questions were issued on 13 October 2010.

PQ 14560: 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 324W

PQ 14561: 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 323W

PQ 14564: 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 325W.

Young People: Obesity

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what guidance his Department issues to schools on reducing obesity among persons aged under 16 years; and if he will make a statement. [5636]

Sarah Teather: The Department for Education does not issue any specific guidance to schools on reducing obesity. However, this Government recognise that through physical education, competitive school sport and healthy eating, schools can help address the problem of childhood obesity. In the past, the Department has made available guidance and resources to help schools provide a healthy environment by providing nutritious school lunches, improving participation in high quality PE and sport opportunities, helping children learn about health through personal, social, health and economic education and practical activities such as cooking. Guidance from DfE and Department of Health was issued to schools on how they can support the National Child Measurement Programme, which collects height and weight data on primary school pupils in reception and year 6.

CABINET OFFICE

Civil Servants: Resignations

Mr Umunna: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the proportion of officials who were identified as being *(a)* from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and *(b)* disabled who left the civil service before retirement age in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 on the latest date for which figures are available. [18498]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the proportion of officials who were identified as being (a) from black and minority ethnic backgrounds and (b) disabled who left the Civil Service before retirement age in (i) 2008-09, (ii) 2009-10 and (iii) 2010-11 on the latest date for which figures are available. (18498)

Civil Service Statistics are published annually by the Office for National Statistics on the National Statistics website. Statistics for 2010 will be published on 19 November 2010. The requested estimates for the years 2008 and 2009 are attached at Annex A. Since April 2010, there has been no default retirement age across the Civil Service, but we have used an age of 65 years for the purpose of making these estimates.

Annex A

Civil service employment: civil service leavers before retirement age[1] [2]

				All employees
	2008[3]		*2009*[3]	
	Headcount	*%*	*Headcount*	*%*
Black and/or minority ethnic	2,790	5.6	2,160	5.7
Disabled	1,970	3.9	1,710	4.5
All civil service leavers before retirement age	50,140	100	38,020	100

[1] Numbers are rounded to the nearest ten.
[2] For the purpose of this analysis retirement age has been taken to be 65 years.
[3] Survey reference date 31 March.
Source:
Annual Civil Service Employment Survey.

Employment: Public Sector

Ian Swales: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he has made of the number of people employed in the public sector in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* Redcar constituency in each of the last 13 years. [19504]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question concerning the number of people employed in the public sector in (a) the United Kingdom (b) the North East and (c) Redcar constituency, in each of the last thirteen years. (19504)

Estimates of employment for the UK public sector are taken from the ONS release on Public Sector Employment at

www.statistics.gov.uk

The ONS's preferred estimates of regional public sector employment are based on returns from public sector organisations. These estimates supersede previous estimates of regional employment derived from the Labour Force Survey (LFS). Data up to 2007 are based on the LFS and are adjusted to compensate for seasonal variations in employment. Data from 2008 onwards are based on actual returns from public sector organisations and have not been seasonally adjusted.

The number of people employed in the public sector in the North East is not available before 1999.

The number of people employed in the public sector in Redcar constituency is not available.

The available data are attached at Annex A.

Annex A: Public Sector Employment[1] [2] [3]

		Headcount (thousand)
	UK[4]	*North East*[5] [6]
1998	5,168	—
1999	5,221	239
2000	5,302	235
2001	5,394	234
2002	5,501	251
2003	5,665	254
2004	5,785	253
2005	5,883	268
2006	5,849	263
2007	5,797	263
2008	5,777	284
2009	6,069	290
2010	6,051	285

[1] Annual figures relate to June Q2 except the North East for 1999 which relates to December Q4.
[2] Estimates are based on where people are employed.
[3] Northern Rock classified to the public sector from 9 October 2007, Bradford and Bingley classified to public sector from 26 September 2008, Royal Bank of Scotland Group and Lloyds Banking Group classified to the public sector from 13 October 2008.
[4] Figures for the UK are seasonally adjusted.
[5] 1998-2007 seasonally adjusted and based on returns from the LFS.
[6] 2008-2010 not seasonally adjusted and based on returns from public sector organisations.

Immigration: Transcaucasus

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of the number of people originating from *(a)* Armenia, *(b)* Azerbaijan and *(c)* Georgia who are resident in the UK. [18502]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question to Secretary of State for the Home Department, concerning the number of people from (a) Armenia, (b) Azerbaijan and (c) Georgia who are resident in the UK [18502].

The latest estimates available, based on the Annual Population Survey, are for the 12 month period of January to December 2009. These are shown in the table below.

Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, by selected nationalities and country of birth

Thousand

	Country of birth		*Nationality*	
	Estimate	*CI+/-*	*Estimate*	*CI+/-*
Armenia	n/a	n/a	1	1
Azerbaijan	2	2	2	2
Georgia	3	2	2	2

n/a = "not available"
CI = Confidence Interval
Source:
Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

Lone Parents: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents were resident in Brighton, Kemptown constituency in each of the last 10 years. [19011]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many lone parents were resident in Brighton, Kemptown constituency in each of the last 10 years for which figures are available (19011).

Estimates, based on the Annual Population Survey, for lone parent families which include at least one child aged under 16, are given in the table below. Data are available for 2004 to 2008.

This is based on the 2008 parliamentary constituency boundary, which contained 10 electoral wards, one more than the current constituency.

Number of lone parent families with at least one child under 16 in Brighton, Kemptown constituency

	Estimate (thousand)
2004	3
2005	3
2006	2
2007	2
2008	2

Source:
APS

Ovarian Cancer

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the five-year survival rate from ovarian cancer was in the latest period for which figures are available. [18828]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking what the five-year survival rate from ovarian cancer was in the latest period for which figures are available (18828).

ONS publishes cancer survival rates calculated from the date of diagnosis.

The latest figures available show that five-year relative survival for ovarian cancer, in England, was 41 per cent for women, aged 15-99 years, diagnosed in 2003 - 2007 and followed up to 2008.[1, 2]

Survival figures for England published by ONS, for 21 common cancers, are available on the National Statistics website at:

http://www.statistics.gov.uk/StatBase/Product.asp?vlnk=14007

[1] Relative survival is the probability of survival (shown here as a percentage) after correction for other causes of death.

[2] Ovarian cancer is defined by the International Classification of Diseases, tenth revision (ICD-10) codes C56, C57.0, C57.7.

Strategic Defence and Security Review: Climate Change

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to include in the remit of the Strategic Defence and Security Review consideration of the effects of climate change and resource competition. [18321]

Mr Letwin: The National Security Strategy (NSS), which was published on 18 October, assessed that competition for resources—such as energy, water or food—among or within other countries can result in instability which may impact on the UK's national security, for example in the form of conflict or increased migratory pressures. It also assessed that the physical effects of climate change are likely to become increasingly significant, exacerbating existing tensions around the world. The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), which was published the following day, makes recommendations for improving the Government's ability to consider and tackle these issues, and establishes clear governance structures and accountability.

Teenage Pregnancies: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office pursuant to the answer of 14 September 2010, *Official Report,* columns 998-99W, on teenage pregnancies, how many pregnancies were recorded among women aged 15 to 17 years living in Peterborough City council area in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [19103]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many pregnancies were recorded among women aged 15 to 17 years living in Peterborough City Council area in 2009 (19103).

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions. Because of the confidentiality of data on abortions and stillbirths, figures on conceptions at specific ages are not published for small areas, such as Peterborough City Council, because of the risk of disclosing such information.

There were 168 conceptions to women under 18 years of age in Peterborough Unitary Authority in 2008 (the most recent year for which figures are available). The data for 2008 are provisional.

Third Sector: Surveys

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office for what reasons his Department has decided to undertake a second wave national survey of charities and social enterprises. [18593]

Mr Hurd: The National Survey of Charities and Social Enterprises is the largest and most far reaching survey of its kind, and is vital in providing detailed information on the state of the sector at a local level. The first wave of the survey in 2008 proved invaluable to the sector and local statutory bodies in identifying and addressing key local issues, and has informed both national and local policy.

The Government have set out a clear role for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector in building a stronger civil society and the second wave of the survey will be key to providing information needed to effectively support the sector in this role. The survey results, which will be fully published at:

www.nscsesurvey.com

will provide citizens, communities, the sector and local and central Government with real insight into the current environment for the sector, in addition to an unprecedented level of evidence on the sector over time. This data will be crucial in supporting evidence-based decision-making in response to public spending reductions, holding government account on its support for the sector, and providing the tools to drive real change in local areas.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Kate Hoey: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to ensure compliance with Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in respect of participation in political life in regard to its provisions for *(a)* ensuring that voting procedures, facilities and materials are appropriate, accessible, easy to understand and use, *(b)* protecting the right of persons with disabilities to vote by secret ballot in elections and public referendums without intimidation and to stand for elections, to effectively hold office and perform all public functions at all levels of government, facilitating the use of assistive and new technologies where appropriate and *(c)* guaranteeing the free expression of the will of persons with disabilities as electors and to this end, where necessary, at their request, allowing assistance in voting by a person of their own choice. [18594]

Mr Harper: The Government are keen to ensure that disabled people are supported to participate in political and public life and that the electoral process is accessible to all electors. This reflects our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the obligations set out in Article 29.

This is why the Cabinet Office has made an early commitment as part of our coalition document to introduce extra support for disabled people who want to become MPs, councillors or other elected officials. We are currently looking at the detail of how best to support disabled people who want to enter political life. In working up detailed policy proposals, we will draw on the evidence set out by the cross-party Speaker's Conference and involve the expertise of disabled people and disabled people's organisations at an early stage.

The Electoral Administration Act 2006 ("EA Act 2006") and associated legislation contain measures aimed to make the voting process more accessible for disabled electors. Returning officers are required to display an enlarged version of the ballot paper in polling stations and to provide upon request at polling stations a large hand-held sample copy of the ballot paper for the assistance of visually impaired voters. Returning officers must also ensure that each polling station is supplied with a tactile voting device which is designed to enable blind and partially sighted voters to cast their vote independently without revealing their voting intentions to a third party.

Electoral officers are also required to make information and documents about the electoral process available to electors in other languages and formats, including Braille and audio format.

There are also a number of provisions in legislation which are specifically intended to support disabled electors to vote at elections. These include provision that, on application to the presiding officer, disabled voters in polling stations may cast their vote with the assistance of a companion.

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility for designating polling places and must carry out a full assessment of polling places at least every four years to ensure that, so far as it is practicable, all venues are accessible to electors who are disabled. This should mean that polling places are regularly checked for accessibility, and consideration given to making reasonable improvements where practicable.

The Government are also aware that for some groups in society, including electors who are disabled, e-voting can assist them to overcome barriers to participation. This may be an area that needs closer consideration as to how information technology can assist in the absence of a full e-voting solution being put in place alongside the existing paper-based model, which is a model that many trust and expect. Where there are issues with the existing paper-based system, the Government will look at the evidence and identify what needs to be taken forward to address those issues.

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to ensure that its activities are compliant with the provisions of Article 29 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities on participation in political and public life. [17888]

Mr Harper: The Government are keen to ensure that disabled people are supported to participate in political and public life and that the electoral process is accessible to all electors. This reflects our commitment to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the obligations set out in Article 29.

This is why the Cabinet Office has made an early commitment as part of our coalition document to introduce extra support for disabled people who want to become MPs, councillors or other elected officials. We are currently looking at the detail of how best to support disabled people who want to enter political life. In working up detailed policy proposals, we will draw on the evidence set out by the cross-party Speaker's Conference and involve the expertise of disabled people and disabled people's organisations at an early stage.

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Electoral officers are also required to make information and documents about the electoral process available to electors in other languages and formats, including Braille and audio format.

Local authorities have a statutory responsibility for designating polling places and under the EA Act 2006 have an obligation to carry out a full assessment of polling places at least every four years to ensure that, so far as it is practicable, all venues are accessible to electors who are disabled. This should mean that polling places are regularly checked for accessibility, and consideration given to making reasonable improvements where practicable.

The EA Act 2006 allows certain prescribed persons, e.g. a local councillor, or 30 or more local electors, to make representations to the Electoral Commission to review the local authority's decision.

Disabled electors may choose to vote by post as an alternative to voting in a polling station. The law allows an Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) to dispense with the requirement for postal vote applicants to provide a signature if the ERO is satisfied that the applicant is unable to do so due to the elector being disabled.

Unemployment

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what definition of a workless household his Department uses. [17958]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning what definition of a workless household the Department for Work and Pensions uses. [17958].

Official statistics on workless households are produced by the Office for National Statistics. The definition of a workless household is a household that includes at least one person aged 16 to 64 and where no individuals aged 16 and over are in employment.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Next Generation Broadband

16. **Stephen Metcalfe:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what progress he has made on his plans to roll out next generation broadband. [18958]

Mr Jeremy Hunt: The Government are committed to delivering the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, including into rural areas. Last week, the Chancellor announced four superfast broadband pilot projects, in Cumbria, Herefordshire, North Yorkshire and the Highlands and Islands as a first step to delivering this. These pilots will be the first projects supported using the £530 million funding for broadband that my right hon. Friend the Chancellor announced as part of the spending review.

Arts Council England

17. **Simon Hughes:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans he has for the future of Arts Council England; and if he will make a statement. [18959]

Mr Vaizey: The Arts Council plays a vital role in bringing expertise and impartiality to arts funding and providing support to artists and arts organisations. It will continue to do so in the future.

Arts and Creative Industries

18. **Luciana Berger:** To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effect on the economy of changes in his Department's levels of funding for the arts and creative industries. [18960]

Mr Vaizey: As part of their settlement we have asked the Arts Council to limit cuts in the overall budget for arts organisations to just 15% in real terms. I am confident that this relative level of protection, combined with an increase in lottery funding over the coming years will allow the arts and creative industries to continue to play a vital role in our economy.

Broadband

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he has taken to ensure the rapid roll-out of superfast broadband across the country. [18222]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Government are committed to delivering the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, including into rural areas. Last week, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced four superfast broadband pilot projects, in Cumbria, Herefordshire, North Yorkshire and the Highlands and Islands as a first step to delivering this. These pilots will be the first projects supported using the £530 million funding for broadband that the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced as part of the spending review.

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions for the 2012 London Olympic games. [18999]

Hugh Robertson: The use of quality management statements in the selection of suppliers, leading to contract award decisions, is recognised good procurement practice.

The vast majority of contracts by value for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic games will be awarded by the Olympic Delivery Authority (ODA) with a significant number awarded by the London Organising Committee for the Olympic Games (LOCOG).

While LOCOG is a private company not bound by public procurement regulation, the ODA is a DCMS public body. As such, DCMS officials have reviewed ODA procurement policy and are satisfied that it encompasses good procurement practice.

Specifically, the ODA uses a "balanced scorecard" of criteria at both the prequalification stage to select a shortlist of suppliers to invite to tender and at the tender evaluation stage in selecting the successful supplier. The balanced scorecard considers five broad criteria areas including quality management and reviewing the quality management statements of prospective suppliers.

DCMS officials have also reviewed LOCOG procurement policy and are satisfied that LOCOG also adopts good practice consideration of quality management statements in its contract award process.

It is, however, recognised that a good quality management statement is no guarantee that a supplier will in fact perform well in practice. Therefore appropriate consideration of other factors, such as health, safety, environmental capabilities, financial viability, construction quality and others, are taken into account as part of the "balanced scorecard" to select suppliers.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18745]

John Penrose: The Department's HR department holds records from 2000. We are not able to break down the information into disciplinary and performance issues. The information we are able to provide is as follows:

	Number of disciplinaries	*Removed from post*	*Transferred to another position*	*Dismissed*
2000-01	1	0	0	0
2001-02	1	0	0	0
2002-03	0	0	0	0
2003-04	4	0	0	1
2004-05	2	0	0	2
2005-06	0	0	0	0
2006-07	2	0	0	2
2007-08	0	0	0	0
2008-09	2	0	0	0
2009-10	0	0	0	0
2010-11	4	0	0	0

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18743]

John Penrose: The Department makes bonus payments to its staff for two purposes: (a) special bonuses to reward outstanding contributions in particularly demanding tasks or situations; and (b) performance related bonuses to reward highly successful performance over a whole year. Awards were made in line with Cabinet Office principles and guidelines on performance-related pay.

Such information that is available is shown in the tables.

Financial year	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Number of staff awarded special bonuses and performance related bonuses	206	168	235	327	371	420	391
Total all bonuses (£)	206,403	215,285	293,241	392,114	520,713	582,167	608,587

£

Largest 20 bonuses of any type	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
1	8,500	7,000	12,000	14,000	13,000	35,000	49,500
2	6,000	7,000	6,000	10,000	11,000	30,000	40,000
3	6,000	7,000	6,000	10,000	10,000	15,000	12,500
4	5,000	6,000	5,000	10,000	10,000	13,500	12,500
5	4,500	5,000	5,000	8,250	10,000	13,500	12,500

£

Largest 20 bonuses of any type	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
6	4,500	5,000	5,000	8,250	9,500	12,000	12,000
7	4,500	5,000	5,000	8,000	8,500	11,000	11,000
8	4,500	4,000	4,000	8,000	8,500	11,000	10,000
9	4,000	3,500	4,000	8,000	8,500	11,000	10,000
10	4,000	3,500	4,000	6,500	8,500	11,000	10,000
11	4,000	3,400	4,000	6,065	8,500	11,000	10,000
12	3,500	3,000	4,000	6,000	8,500	9,000	10,000
13	2,716	3,000	4,000	6,000	8,000	9,000	10,000
14	2,500	2,500	4,000	5,000	7,500	7,000	10,000
15	2,500	2,500	4,000	5,000	5,800	7,000	9,500
16	2,500	2,500	4,000	4,500	5,800	7,000	8,000
17	2,500	2,500	3,500	4,500	5,800	7,000	8,000
18	1,750	2,500	3,500	4,500	5,800	7,000	8,000
19	1,700	2,500	3,500	4,000	5,800	7,000	8,000
20	1,700	2,500	3,000	3,750	5,800	7,000	8,000

The Department does not hold information prior to 2003.

Data on payments by non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally and I will ask the chief executive of each body to write to the hon. Member.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18744]

John Penrose: The types of allowances that are paid to staff in the Department and their monetary values are shown in the table. Allowances are paid on a monthly basis in addition to basic salaries.

Data on allowances or payments by non-departmental public bodies are not held centrally and I will ask the Chief Executive of each body to write to the hon. Member.

	Allowance type	*Total amount (£)*
2003-04	Recruitment and retention allowance	106,464
2004-05	Recruitment and retention allowance	125,010
	Specialist allowance	9,455
2005-06	Recruitment and retention allowance	89,820
	Specialist allowance	61,464
2006-07	Recruitment and retention allowance	84,666
	Specialist allowance	101,886
2007-08	Recruitment and retention allowance	86,211
	Specialist allowance	108,983
2008-09	Recruitment and retention allowance	106,736
	Specialist allowance	101,478
2009-10	Recruitment and retention allowance	97,376
	Specialist allowance	123,090
	Private office allowance	25,669

The Department does not hold information prior to 2003.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill-health in 2009-10. [18567]

John Penrose: The table shows the average number of working days lost due to ill-health in my Department in 2009-10.

Civil service pay grade	*Average working days lost by staff year*
AA/AO	23.1
EO	5.6
HEO/SEO	4.0
G7	1.9
G6	3.3
SCS	1.4
Total	4.7

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18747]

John Penrose: The table shows the total number of officials who were on leave due to sickness absence in the Department in each year since 2003.

(i) Officials who were on leave due to sickness absence consecutively in each of the category could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Length of absence	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
< 5 days	187	213	225	270	279	324	378
5-10 days	29	23	16	36	33	38	31
10-15 days	0	10	4	6	4	5	10
15-20 days	4	2	3	4	0	5	3
20-25 days	1	0	2	2	1	1	4
25-50 days	1	7	8	6	3	0	7
50-75 days	0	2	3	1	1	1	0
75-100 days	1	0	1	0	0	2	2
100-150 days	1	0	0	0	1	2	0
150-200 days	1	0	0	0	0	0	3
>3 months	0	0	0	1	0	2	4
>6 months	0	0	0	0	0	2	3
>1 year	0	0	0	0	0	0	0

The Department does not hold information prior to 2003.

Digital Economy Act 2010

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the appropriateness of the implementation by Ofcom of its regulatory duties under the Digital Economy Act 2010; and if he will make a statement. [18459]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

This Department is in regular contact with Ofcom, particularly in respect to their work on developing the code of practice known as 'The Online Copyright Infringement Initial Obligations Code'. As an independent regulator, Ofcom's compliance with its statutory duties is a matter for Ofcom itself, and Ofcom is directly accountable to Parliament.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what responsibilities he has for oversight of the discharge by Ofcom of its responsibilities under the Digital Economy Act 2010 in respect of sectors which are the policy responsibility of the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills; and if he will make a statement. [19495]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom operates independently of Government and is responsible for its own compliance with its statutory duties. Ofcom is, however, directly accountable to Parliament.

Football

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on his proposals for reform of football governance rules in respect of ownership of Premier League football clubs. [19298]

Hugh Robertson: The Department has received numerous representations from Members of Parliament and members of the public about the ownership of some of our top Premier League clubs. I am aware of the strength of feeling.

My current priority is to win the world cup bid for 2018; however, I am continuing discussions with the football authorities on the question of governance reform and club ownership.

To their credit, the Premier League has already taken steps to introduce a number of new rules for this season, specifically in the areas of club ownership. This includes a new means and abilities test, requiring proof of funds of prospective new owners as well as a strengthening of their Owners and Directors Test (formerly known as the fit and proper persons test).

However, we are examining what further action might be necessary.

Olympic Games 2010: Skipton

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps his Department is taking to ensure a legacy for Skipton and Ripon constituency from the London 2012 Olympics. [18935]

Hugh Robertson: The Government and the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) established the Nations and Regions Group to ensure UK-wide engagement and to maximise the legacy from London 2012. This group works directly with representatives from each of the nations and English regions to realise the sporting, economic, and cultural benefits of the 2012 games.

Across the UK over 850 cultural and sporting programmes have been awarded Inspire Marks, 63 being in the Yorkshire and Humberside region. Over 14,000 schools and colleges have registered for LOCOG's education programme Get Set, 1,262 are registered in the region. In Ripon and Skipton 17 schools and colleges have registered for Get Set.

In addition 6,290 companies in the region have registered on Competefor (the website where London 2012 contract opportunities are advertised), and 32 contracts have been awarded to Competefor suppliers. Not all the information on 'supply chain' level contracts is in the public domain. There may be other companies that have secured 'supply chain' contracts in the region.

Locations across the UK, particularly those that are hosting international teams in pre-games training camps (PGTCs), have additional opportunities to realise the economic benefits of the games. Five agreements have been signed with teams to hold PGTCs in the region.

Public Libraries

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to modernise public libraries. [19235]

Mr Vaizey: Our priority is to identify opportunities for the public library service to operate more effectively and efficiently. The Future Libraries Programme, which I launched in July, is finding new ways to deliver library services without cutting the front line services that communities want and need. It provides the chance to try new and innovative methods like shared resources, different governance models and co-locating with other services. Further details of the Future Libraries Programme can be accessed on the Museums, Libraries and Archives Council's website at

http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/the_future_libraries_programme

Sports: Public Participation

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the *(a)* London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games and *(b)* Mayor of London on changes to the route of the marathon from that specified in the original bid document; and if he will make a statement. [19012]

Hugh Robertson: Responsibility for the route of the Olympic and Paralympic marathon events in 2012 rests with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG). LOCOG wrote and sought endorsement from the Olympic Board members, which includes the chair of the British Olympic Association, the Mayor of London and the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport. The route has been endorsed by these Olympic Board members. The route has been chosen for operational reasons. It helps keep London moving on busy competition days, minimises disruption to other games events, and best meets athlete and spectator requirements.

Television

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what timetable he has set for the implementation of his proposals for local television services; and if he will make a statement; [19412]

(2) what plans he has for the implementation of his proposals for local television services in *(a)* urban and *(b)* rural areas. [19413]

Mr Vaizey: Nicholas Shott is currently conducting an independent review of local TV in the UK and will present the Secretary of State with his final conclusions by early December. This will form the basis of a local media action plan which we will consult on in the next few months. Subject to Nicholas Shott's findings, we hope to see the first local TV stations licensed from 2012.

Nicholas Shott's interim findings suggest that local television on digital terrestrial is only likely to be viable in certain areas of the UK, which Government are considering.

For those areas where local TV is not deemed to be viable on digital terrestrial, internet protocol television such as YouView may offer a future solution to make local television services technically and economically viable.

Television: Broadcasting

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the establishment of local television stations; and if he will make a statement. [19090]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State has met with existing national broadcasters and other interested parties to discuss local TV. The Government appointed investment banker Nicholas Shott to look at the conditions necessary for commercially viable local TV in the UK and he has met with various interested parties as part of his work. He is due to present his final conclusions by early December.

HEALTH

Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections. [19168]

Anne Milton: The chair of the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections (ARHAI) carries out periodic appraisals for each of the ARHAI members. Appointments are reviewed regularly.

However as part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs), we will be implementing a periodic review process, of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness.

A formal review has not been conducted but the Department's assessment at present, is that ARHAI makes a valuable contribution to developing the evidence base for Government policy.

Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances. [19167]

Mr Simon Burns: The Advisory Committee on Borderline Substances (ACBS) has recently undergone a review of its processes and the Department is content that the ACBS is effective.

Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens. [19166]

Anne Milton: The Department's assessment of the performance of the Advisory Committee on Dangerous Pathogens (ACDP) is that it provides essential and high quality expert scientific advice on all aspects of dangerous pathogens and that there is continuing need for its advice. ACDP also provides advice to the Department for Food, Environment and Rural Affairs and to the Health and Safety Executive. A review of ACDP formed part of the review of the Department's use of science undertaken by the Government Office for Science in 2008. A formal review of the performance of the chairman of ACDP has just been concluded prior to confirmation of his reappointment for a further term.

Departmental sponsors undertake regular performance reviews of the members of ACDP and these form the basis of recommendations for their continued appointment to the committee. The Department is currently reviewing the remit and terms of reference of the ACDP, prior to its reconfiguration as a departmental committee of experts.

Advisory Group on Hepatitis

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis. [19164]

Anne Milton: A review of all members and the Chair of the Advisory Group on Hepatitis (AGH) by the Department's sponsor and Secretariat was conducted in summer 2010. All members and the Chair were assessed on categories such as attendance and scientific contribution at meetings and their support and commitment to the AGH more generally. All members were assessed as either excellent or good in these aspects. The outcome of the review was fed back to members and the Chair individually and a record is held by the Secretariat.

In addition, the AGH prepares an annual report for the Chief Medical Officer which is published and available on the AGH website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/ab/AGH/index.htm?ssSourceSiteId=en

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public body (ANDPB) the Department will be implementing a periodic review process, of all significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness.

Alcohol Education and Research Council

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Alcohol Education and Research Council. [19163]

Anne Milton: The Alcohol Education and Research Council (AERC) is an independent body. It has charitable status and administers a fund to support research into the prevention of alcohol-related harm. The Department does not provide any funding for this non-departmental public body.

As set out in the Department's Report of the Arm's Length Bodies Review, the AERC will be abolished as a NDPB and remain as a charity. The decision means it will be free to continue and develop its research programme to inform some of the key questions on alcohol policy.

Appointments Commission

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Appointments Commission. [19162]

Mr Simon Burns: The Appointments Commission continues to effectively carry out its role in making national health service public appointments.

Cancer: Charities

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department plans to work with cancer charities to promote his Department's Signs and Symptoms campaign. [19128]

Paul Burstow: We are working with a number of cancer charities on the two centrally run regional campaigns and 59 local campaigns that we are supporting to raise awareness of the signs and symptoms of cancer.

We are also keeping a broader range of cancer charities in touch with the plans, giving them opportunities to contribute as they wish.

Care Quality Commission

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of setting up the Care Quality Commission; and what estimate he has made of the proportion of the care home information gathered through its registration process which had already been collected by former social care bodies. [18686]

Paul Burstow: In 2006, the Department announced that the costs of setting up the Care Quality Commission (CQC) would be in the region of £140 million. The Department has since estimated that the costs of setting up the CQC, and winding-up predecessor organisations, were approximately £140 million between 2006-07 and 2009-10.

CQC is independent, and is responsible for developing and implementing its own methodology for assessing providers. It inherited information from its predecessor body, the Commission for Social Care Inspection, and supplemented this with information to assess provider compliance with regulations and make decisions for registration under the Health and Social Care Act 2008. It is not possible to make an estimate of the proportion of registration information gathered by previous bodies.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care home registrations the Care Quality Commission has *(a)* lost and *(b)* failed to process within the target timescale for processing since its inception; and how many complaints regarding the Commission (i) the Commission and (ii) his Department has received in that period from care home providers. [18687]

Paul Burstow: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

(a) CQC has advised that it is aware of two instances of providers reporting that their application had been lost.

(b) In the period 2009-10, CQC registered 7,241 providers under the Care Standards Act (CSA) 2000. Of those registrations, 75.2% were processed within the target timescale for completing registration.

In the period April to September 2010, CQC registered 4,082 providers under the CSA. Of those registrations, 89.3% were processed within the target timescale for completing registration.

At 1 October 2010, CQC had registered 9,400 providers of adult social care under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 (the 2008 Act). All providers that applied within the timeframe were registered.

(i) From 1 April 2010 to 13 October 2010, CQC received 73 complaints in relation to CSA activity, 2008 Act registration, or transition to the 2008 Act registration system. None of these complaints was pursued to the second stage of the corporate complaints procedure; nor were any complaints taken to the Parliamentary and Health Service Ombudsman.

(ii) The Department has not received any formal complaints from care home providers, although it has received 223 items of correspondence relating to issues in care homes or residential care that have been dealt with as official correspondence.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether blood donated by people with myalgic encephalomyelitis will be removed from the blood bank in circumstances in which such donors are found to have the xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus. [19310]

Anne Milton: There are no plans to remove from storage blood donated by any donors found to have the xenotropic murine leukemia virus-related virus (XMRV).

An expert subgroup of National Expert Panel for New and Emerging Infections (NEPNEI) met in May 2010, to consider all available evidence about XMRV and conduct a risk assessment. The subgroup concluded that XMRV can infect humans but there is currently no evidence that it causes human disease and that on the evidence before the group, no public health action is required at this time. Since the subgroup meeting in May there has been no new scientific evidence that would change the conclusions of the subgroup. In July 2010, the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs, similarly did not recommend further measures at present. Both groups will continue to monitor the situation.

Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence. [19171]

Anne Milton: The Department has nominated a senior official as sponsor of the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence with overall responsibility for oversight of its performance. Assessment is an ongoing process. The Department monitors the arm's length body performance regularly through quarterly accountability meetings, which include an annual review of performance.

In 2009-10, the Department considered the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence's performance to have been good and that their work had made a positive contribution to promoting the health, safety and well-being of patients and other members of the public.

The Department's Arm's Length Body Review, published on 26 July 2010, concluded that the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence does currently fulfil an ongoing need to quality assure professional regulation.

Dental Services

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of transferring the commissioning of NHS primary dental care to the NHS Commissioning Board, as referred to in his Department's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". [18439]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run. The precise costs of transferring the commissioning of NHS primary dental care to the NHS Commissioning Board will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

Four consultations relating to how the new organisations should be designed—specifically covering "transparency on outcomes, liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health" and "commissioning for patients and regulating healthcare providers"—have recently closed and once the results of these have been analysed we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

A further two consultations on other aspects of reform set out in the White Paper—"specifically an information revolution" and "greater choice and control" have recently been launched and will close in January.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which body will be responsible for commissioning salaried primary care dental services under the proposals in his Department's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". [18440]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals set out in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", the NHS Commissioning Board would, subject to the outcome of consultation, be responsible for commissioning primary care dental services. Further details will be available at the introduction of the Health Bill into Parliament, which will follow later this year.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what role consultants in dental public health will have in commissioning NHS dentistry under the proposals in his Department's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS"; [18441]

(2) what role dental practice advisers will have in the structure of the NHS under the proposals in his Department's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS". [18446]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" refers to creation of a NHS Commissioning Board and a new Public Health Service, to integrate and streamline existing health improvement. The NHS Commissioning Board will take on responsibility for commissioning national health service primary dental services, while the primary care trusts' responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities. Local authorities will employ the Director of Public Health jointly appointed with the Public Health Service. To discharge their functions and responsibilities, both the Public Health Service in local authorities and dental service commissioners will need appropriate advice and input from dental public health consultants, dental practice advisers and their teams, working with local clinicians.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16811]

Mr Simon Burns: The latest data on performance of each Department towards the 10% reduction target are publicly available on the:

www.data.gov.uk

website:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Performance data are reported monthly, within four weeks of the month end. The next data release (to the end of September 2010) will be available by the end of October 2010, and similarly published to:

www.data.gov.uk

The Department's current estimate of reduction in the level of carbon emissions since May 2010 is just above the 10% required.

Projects under way that will help us meet our target include:

- replacing our desktop personal computers with network interface boxes and centralising storage;
- decommissioning a number of information technology servers;
- reduction of air-conditioning requirement in server rooms;
- impact of new lighting system on the 6th floor of Skipton House;
- impact of new ventilation and air-conditioning system on the 2nd floor of Richmond House;
- introduction of Voltage Optimisation;
- replacement of lamps;
- installing sub meters in one building;
- replace Air Handling Unit Fan assembly; and
- the move of the Medicines Healthcare products Regulatory Agency to a more efficient building.

The target of reducing emissions by 10% applies to the three Headquarter buildings in which the Department has direct responsibility for energy use, and those occupied by NHS Connecting for Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency.

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many statutory duties were placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by his Department in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [17021]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to reducing top down burdens on local authorities from legislation, guidance and other forms of prescription. The full response to this question could be made only at disproportionate cost.

Doctors: Africa

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many doctors currently working in the NHS gained their primary medical qualification in *(a)* Malawi and *(b)* Uganda. [17614]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table sets out the number of doctors working in England, who gained their primary medical qualification in Malawi and Uganda as at 30 September 2009.

All doctors[1] by country of primary qualification

	Number of all doctors[1]
Malawi	24
Uganda	73

[1] Excludes hospital and community health services medical hospital practitioners and medical clinical assistants, most of whom are general practitioners working part time in hospitals.

Notes:

Information about country of qualification is derived from the General Medical Council. For staff in dental specialties, with a General Dental Council registration, the country of qualification is therefore unknown.

Data Quality:

The NHS Information Centre for health and social care seeks to minimise inaccuracies and the effect of missing and invalid data but responsibility for data accuracy lies with the organisations providing the data. Methods are continually being updated to improve data quality. Where changes impact on figures already published, this is assessed but unless it is significant at national level, figures are not changed. Impact at detailed or local level is footnoted in relevant analyses.

Source:

The NHS Information Centre, Medical and Dental Workforce Census.

Drugs: Prisoners

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of prisoners participating in detoxification programmes are receiving gradual reduction prescriptions. [19084]

Paul Burstow: None of the prisoners reported as receiving detoxification programmes in 2009-10 had received a gradual reduction prescription. Longer duration treatments, including gradual reduction prescriptions, are reported within the extended prescriptions data collection category.

In 2009-10, 36,323 prisoners received treatment on detoxification programmes of less than 21 days prescribed treatment. In the same period, 23,744 prisoners received treatment on extended detoxification programmes. Since extended programme data include both maintenance and slow reduction treatments, and the proportion of each is not separately identified, we do not know how many prisoners received gradual reduction prescriptions.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of *(a)* the number of people under the age of (i) 18 and (ii) 16 years who are being prescribed (A) methadone and (B) buprenorphine/subutex and *(b)* the average dose of each medication prescribed for one such patient. [17092]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of young people in specialist substance misuse services in England. 498 young people under the age of 18 received pharmacological interventions in 2008-09. Of these, 66 were under 16 years old. NDTMS does not distinguish between opiate substitute drugs (such as methadone or buprenorphine) and other prescribed drugs (such as Ritalin for attention deficit hyperactivity disorder) and it is important to note that pharmacological interventions in this context include prescribing for detoxification, stabilisation and symptomatic relief of substance misuse. Information on the doses prescribed is not recorded within NDTMS or held centrally.

Young people's substance misuse is markedly different to that of adults. Young people tend to have shorter histories of substance use and have used lower levels of drugs for shorter periods. They are therefore much less likely to be physically dependent. Just 2% of young people in treatment in 2008-09 were using heroin or crack cocaine as their primary substance. Substitute prescribing for under-18s is therefore rare. Instead, interventions for young people centre on psychosocial counselling-based therapies. Of the 498 young people receiving pharmacological interventions in 2008-09, all but 36 received psychosocial and other interventions as well.

Epilepsy

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent discussions he has had with representatives of epilepsy groups on the future of epilepsy services in the National Health Service; [18690]

(2) whether he plans to take steps to ensure that proposed GP consortia comply with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on services for people with epilepsy; [18692]

(3) what assessment he has made of the ability of proposed GP consortia to commission epilepsy services appropriately. [18693]

Paul Burstow: At the 12 October Westminster Hall debate on epilepsy services, I gave an undertaking to meet with the All-Party Parliamentary Group and patient groups to discuss in more detail some of the issues that were raised during the debate. These meetings are currently being arranged.

Health professionals are expected to take into account National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on epilepsy when providing care for those with epilepsy. This arrangement will continue with the introduction of general practitioner (GP) consortiums.

We will be working to ensure that GP consortiums have the skills to commission effective, and appropriate, services for those living with epilepsy.

Epilepsy: Pregnancy

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to encourage GPs to comply with the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence's recommendation in the proposed Quality and Outcomes Framework for 2011-12 for GPs to talk to women with epilepsy about drug risk during pregnancy. [18691]

Mr Simon Burns: The indicators recommended for inclusion in the Quality and Outcomes Framework are part of the current national general practitioner contract negotiations between the General Practitioners Committee of the British Medical Association and National Health Service Employers. Discussions between the two parties are currently ongoing.

Expert Advisory Group on AIDS

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS. [19172]

Anne Milton: In terms of ongoing assessment of effectiveness of the Expert Advisory Group on AIDS (EAGA), the chair, secretariat and departmental sponsor last conducted an appraisal of the performance of all of EAGA's members in 2009. Regular meetings are also held to review EAGA's activity and identify future priorities. In addition, the quality and educational benefits of EAGA meetings are evaluated regularly.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public body (ANDPBs), we will be implementing a periodic review process, of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness.

General Practitioners: Finance

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that payments to GP practices for the improvement of premises are maintained at adequate levels under his proposals to pay such practices according to a formula based on capitation and patient list size. [19044]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government are committed to working towards fair and equitable arrangements for all elements of general practitioner funding, including support for premises.

We will discuss these issues with the profession over the coming period.

Genetics and Insurance Committee

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Genetics and Insurance Committee. [19157]

Anne Milton: There has been no recent assessment made of the performance of the Genetics and Insurance Committee.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs), the Department will be implementing a periodic review process (three yearly), of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness. Wherever possible this will be conducted by an independent expert.

Health Protection Agency

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Health Protection Agency. [19156]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) submits quarterly performance reports to the Department against an annually agreed business plan. Departmental officials meet regularly with the HPA throughout the year. An annual accountability review is held to discuss the HPA's performance against key targets. The HPA continues to provide a good performance in its vital work of protecting the public health.

Health Services

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans the NHS Commissioning Board has to adopt the third edition of the Specialised Services National Definitions Set. [19455]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out the Government's intention that the NHS Commissioning Board will commission national specialised services and regional specialised services set out in the Specialised Services National Definitions Set. The consultation on these proposals, which closed on 11 October, asked for views on whether any of the services currently commissioned as regional specialised services could potentially in the future be commissioned by general practitioner consortia. The consultation responses are currently being analysed.

Hepatitis C: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of hepatitis C were diagnosed in Ealing, Southall constituency in each year since 2007. [19075]

Anne Milton: Data collected by the Health Protection Agency (HPA) do not collect laboratory confirmed cases of hepatitis C by constituency as this is not a routine data output.

However, the HPA published hepatitis C diagnosed cases by region for each year from 1995 to 2008 in its annual report[1]. The totals for London region were 1,016 cases (2007) and 972 cases (2008).

A total of 8,812 cases of hepatitis C were reported in 2009 in England and Wales[2].

Regional data will be available shortly.

[1] HPA. Hepatitis C in the UK. 2009 Annual report. Table 2: Laboratory reports of hepatitis C infection by English region: 1995-2008.

[2] HPA. Hepatitis in England and Wales: annual reports for 2009. Health Protection Report 4(34) (27 August 2010).

Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority. [19154]

Anne Milton: The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA) is held to account through quarterly review meetings and an annual review of performance with the departmental sponsor team.

The Government are of the view that the HFEA has discharged its statutory functions effectively.

Human Genetics Commission

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Human Genetics Commission. [19153]

Anne Milton: In 2008, the Department published a review of the Human Genetics Commission. The review's findings are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsPolicyAndGuidance/DH_084690

Human Tissue Authority

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Human Tissue Authority. [19152]

Anne Milton: The Human Tissue Authority (HTA) is held to account through quarterly review meetings and an annual review of performance with the departmental sponsor team.

The Government are of the view that the HTA has discharged its statutory functions effectively.

Independent Review Panels: Performance

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Independent Review Panel on the Advertising of Medicines; [19149]

(2) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Independent Review Panel for the Classification of Borderline Products; [19150]

(3) what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee; [19155]

(4) what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Advisory Committee on Antimicrobial Resistance and Healthcare Associated Infections; [19169]

(5) what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Committee on the Safety of Devices. [19170]

Mr Simon Burns: The Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) keeps the assessment of the performance of both the Herbal Medicines Advisory Committee and the Advisory Board on the Registration of Homeopathic Products under continuous review and holds regular meetings with its chairmen. In addition annual appraisals of the respective chairmen are held. This process will remain unchanged.

The Independent Review Panel on the Advertising of Medicines and the Independent Review Panel for the classification of Borderline Products meet infrequently and as a result no formal recent assessment has been made of performance. Reports on the activities of these bodies are approved by Ministers and presented to Parliament annually.

MHRA holds regular meetings with the chairman of the Committee on the Safety of Devices to review progress and effectiveness of the advice given and the actions proposed by this committee.

Medical Treatments

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence plans to consult on the proposed protocol to be used to determine whether it assesses products, services and technologies for rare conditions or refers them to the Advisory Group on National Specialised Services. [18430]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) is currently working with the secretariat of the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services (AGNSS) to develop a set of protocols which will set out the circumstances in which NICE will suggest treatments for very rare conditions for consideration by AGNSS. We understand that NICE has no plans to consult separately on the protocols although they will be incorporated into its "Topic Selection Guide for Technology Appraisals" which is reviewed and consulted on periodically.

Mental Illness

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues on the use of neuroleptics in the management of psychosis-related conditions. [18932]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence published guidance on the treatment of schizophrenia in March 2009, which includes guidelines on the use of neuroleptics. The guidance can be seen on the institute's website at:

http://guidance.nice.org.uk/CG82/Guidance

Minor Injuries Units: Closures

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the potential closure of small injuries units at community hospitals; and if he will make a statement. [19134]

Mr Simon Burns: We are aware of no recent representations on the potential closure of small injuries units at community hospitals, other than those made by my hon. Friend in two recent pieces of correspondence with the Department and a further two parliamentary questions.

As set out in the recent White Paper, the Government are committed to devolving power to local communities where the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils are best placed to determine improvements in their local national health service. Any changes to services must have support from GP commissioners, patients and the public, be based on sound clinical evidence and support patient choice.

National Joint Registry Steering Committee

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the National Joint Registry Steering Committee in carrying out its functions. [19200]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Joint Registry Steering Committee has played an important role in driving forward a programme of work that has made the National Joint Registry one of the leading device registries in the world.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies, we will be implementing a periodic review of all our significant advisory committees, which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness, and will be conducted, whenever possible, by an independent expert.

NHS: Charities

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his estimate is of the amount of money donated to NHS institutions through charitable giving in *(a)* Norfolk and *(b)* England in each of the last five years. [19125]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect or hold the information requested. They are available from the individual charity accounts, also held by the Charity Commission.

The Regulatory Reform (National Health Service Charitable and Non-Charitable Trust Accounts and Audit) Order 2005 came into effect on 31 March 2005.

The Order removed the requirement whereby most NHS bodies in England and Wales were required to prepare two separate sets of accounts—one to the Department (or National Assembly for Wales) and the other to the Charity Commission.

The requirement to submit two separate accounts was a requirement that had been in place since the Charities (Accounts and Reports) Regulations 1995 came into force. Related costs had to be met by the charitable funds themselves which reduced the benefits they provided.

The Regulatory Reform Order removed this dual accounting burden by requiring NHS bodies to submit the accounts of their charitable funds only to the Charity Commission.

NHS: Drugs

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the NHS has spent on medicinal drugs in each of the last five years; and how much he expects it to spend in the next two years. [18599]

Mr Simon Burns: Medicinal drugs expenditure includes national health service expenditure in primary care and the Hospital and Community Health Service (HCHS). Primary care expenditure reflects amounts paid to pharmacy and appliance contractors and amounts authorised for dispensing doctors and personal administration in England. HCHS expenditure includes medical gases and drugs prescribed in hospitals but dispensed in the community. The following table provides details of NHS expenditure on medicinal drugs in each of the last five years:

NHS medicinal drugs expenditure

	£ million
2005-06	9,999

NHS medicinal drugs expenditure

	£ million
2006-07	10,562
2007-08	10,937
2008-09	11,397
2009-10	11,920

Sources:
Prescription Pricing Division of the NHS Business services Authority, England, Department of Health Finance Division, Foundation Trust year-end accounts.

The table shows direct primary care trust (PCT) drugs expenditure and indirect drugs expenditure arising through PCT commissioning activities. Revenue allocations are made to PCTs, which include funding for drugs although this is not identified separately. Decisions on expenditure are made locally based on local needs and priorities. The Department does not publish forecasts of future levels of drugs expenditure.

NHS: EU Nationals

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department takes to ensure that people coming from other EU member states to work in the NHS have *(a)* adequate English language skills and *(b)* the relevant required level of clinical expertise. [19424]

Anne Milton: Under automatic recognition procedures provided for by Directive 2005/36/EC, the relevant competent authority is required to check that a health or social care professional from the European economic area (EEA) applying for inclusion on its register holds a recognised qualification, listed in the directive that has been issued by an EEA competent authority. Under the general system procedures the competent authority is required to check the qualifications of the incoming migrant on a case by case basis to ensure that the qualifications held meet the minimum requirements set by the competent authority. Identity checks and character references may be undertaken, but the regulators may not apply additional checks other than those provided for by the directive at the point of registration.

We understand that the healthcare professions regulatory bodies cannot test the language skills of migrant workers from the EEA before registering them because of the restriction in the directive. Registration depends on whether or not the migrant has the appropriate qualification to practice their profession. It does not mean that a professional has demonstrated that he or she is fit to do a particular job in a particular place.

An employer or a contracting authority should satisfy themselves of a candidate's skills and competencies, including their ability to communicate to the required standard for the post. Clear guidance has been issued to national health service bodies on this issue, which applies equally where a candidate is from the EEA.

Following the recent Health Select Committee's report on the use of overseas doctors in providing out-of-hours services the Government will explore whether there is a more effective system for undertaking checks on the language knowledge of primary care practitioners.

Once registered, a health or social care professional is bound to observe the professional standards set by the relevant healthcare regulatory body and action against any breaches of those standards could be taken against an EEA professional as normal.

Nurses: Africa

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many nurses currently working in the NHS gained their primary medical qualification in *(a)* Malawi and *(b)* Uganda. [17613]

Anne Milton: The Nursing and Midwifery Council (NMC) collects data on the number of admissions to the NMC register by overseas country. The number of nurses admitted to the register in the year ending 31 March 2008 is shown in the following table.

	Number
Malawi	3
Uganda	4

Nurses: EU Nationals

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what procedures his Department follows to establish whether nurses and midwives from other EU member states have sufficient English language skills to practise in England. [19487]

Anne Milton: The Department has no direct role in establishing whether nurses and midwives from other European Union member states have sufficient language skills to practise in England.

Under the recognition procedures provided for by Directive 2005/36/EC the Nursing and Midwifery Council (as the competent authority for nurses and midwives in the United Kingdom) is required to check that professionals from the European economic area applying for inclusion on its register hold a recognised qualification listed in the directive or that the qualification they hold meets the minimum standard they set.

Post registration it is for employers and contracting bodies to ensure that any nurses or midwives they employ or contract with have the necessary skills and competencies (including language competence) for the job.

Prescriptions: Fees and Charges

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the implementation of his proposal to introduce free prescriptions for people with long-term conditions. [19496]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government announced in the Spending Review that some programmes proposed by the previous Government will not be taken forward. This includes free prescriptions for people with long-term conditions. This decision does not affect the medical conditions that are exempt under the current system. We will continue to look at options for creating a fairer system of prescription charges and exemptions in England, taking into account the overall national health service financial context.

Primary Care Trusts

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the initial costs incurred in respect of ending primary care trusts and replacing them with GP consortia in *(a)* England and *(b)* Birmingham. [18545]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the initial costs likely to be incurred in respect of ending primary care trusts and replacing them with GP consortia in *(a)* England and *(b)* Wigan. [19029]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run.

The precise costs, at both national and local level, of the abolition of primary care trusts and the advent of general practitioner consortia will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

Four consultations relating to how the new organisations should be designed—specifically covering "transparency on outcomes, liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health" and "commissioning for patients and regulating healthcare providers"—have recently closed and once the results of these have been analysed we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

A further two consultations on other aspects of reform set out in the White Paper—specifically "an information revolution" and "greater choice and control" have recently been launched and will close in January.

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what arrangements he has made for the proposed phasing out of primary care trusts. [19194]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals in the White Paper, "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", primary care trusts (PCTs) will be abolished from April 2013. By this time, there would be a comprehensive system of general practitioner (GP) consortia with statutory responsibility for commissioning most national health service health care services and an independent NHS Commissioning Board whose responsibilities would include commissioning those health care services for which GP consortia are not responsible. This proposed timetable is designed to enable emerging consortia to work on a collaborative basis with PCTs during the period up to April 2013 to ensure a smooth transition to the new arrangements.

Analysis of the consultation on the implementation of the proposals set out in the White Paper is currently under way. The Government response will be published in due course.

Radiotherapy

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what percentage of NHS patients who receive radiotherapy were treated with IMRT or GRT in the latest period for which figures are available. [18616]

Paul Burstow: It is currently not possible to identify Intensity Modulated Radiotherapy or Image Guided Radiotherapy from other forms of radiotherapy treatment within the Hospital Episode Statistics available to the Department.

The Department is working with the national health service to implement a National Radiotherapy Dataset to support the implementation of the commitment that, by December 2010, no patient should wait longer than 31 days for subsequent radiotherapy, as set out in the Cancer Reform Strategy.

The National Radiotherapy Dataset project team is working with providers to improve collection of data on IMRT and Adaptive Radiotherapy (which covers IGRT) using standard OPCS-4.5 (which has introduced codes for these interventions) clinical coding conventions. However, as with the introduction of new codes, the data entry levels and quality need to improve before the reported activity can be validated. Release of the radiotherapy dataset is governed by Radiotherapy Clinical Information Group, part of National Radiotherapy Advisory Group. April 2011 is the proposed date.

Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition in carrying out its functions. [19199]

Anne Milton: As part of the implementation of the changes resulting from the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies review, we will be implementing a three yearly review process of all our significant advisory committees, including the Scientific Advisory Committee on Nutrition, which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has *(a)* commissioned or *(b)* evaluated research on a potential link between the swine influenza vaccine and the development of Guillain-Barre syndrome. [18525]

Anne Milton: The association between swine flu vaccine and Guillain-Barre syndrome is being continuously assessed by the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA). This assessment is based on review of individual case reports as well as epidemiological studies conducted across Europe from the start of the immunisation campaign to investigate any association. This includes a study from the British Paediatric Surveillance Unit funded by the Department.

Epidemiological studies are ongoing to further assess this possible association and MHRA will carefully evaluate such data in conjunction with other European member states.

Waste Disposal: Health Hazards

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned, *(b)* evaluated and *(c)* conducted on the potential effects on health of emissions from energy from waste plants. [18096]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

DEFRA has commissioned the following research on the potential effects on health of emissions from energy from waste plants:

"Review of Environmental and Health Effects of Waste Management: Municipal Solid Waste and Similar

Wastes", by Enviros Consulting Ltd and university of Birmingham with Risk and Policy Analysts Ltd, Open university and Maggie Thurgood. This was evaluated through peer review by the Royal Society and published in 2004.

"Emissions from Waste Management Facilities: Frameworks for Assessment of Data Quality and Research Needs (WR0608)", by Environmental Resources Management Ltd. This is due to be published later this year following evaluation by peer review.

"Exposure-response relationships for bioaerosol emissions from waste treatment processes (WR0606)" by the Institute of Occupational Medicine. This was evaluated through peer review by a bioaerosols expert and was published in 2009.

Further information on this research can be found on the DEFRA website at:

www.defra.gov.uk

The Environment Agency recently commissioned a review of the health effects of combustion processes, including incineration, and expects to publish a report by the end of the year.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Business

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what information his Department holds on the number of its staff who have run a small business employing fewer than 10 people *(a)* in and *(b)* outside the South East. [18895]

Mr Davey: This information is not recorded centrally in BIS.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many representatives of small businesses serve on *(a)* boards of and *(b)* advisory committees associated with his Department. [18896]

Mr Davey: Details of members of the boards of the Department's public bodies (including advisory NDPBs) are not held centrally, and can be found on the website of the body or in their annual report and accounts.

The Public Bodies Report 2010, showing the list of BIS's public bodies as at 31 March, is due to be published towards the end of November.

Lists of the public bodies of BERR and DIUS, as at 31 March 2009, are available at the following links:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53723.pdf

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/corporate/docs/d/10-591-dius-public-bodies-2009.pdf

In addition we have four ad hoc advisory groups. The number of small business representatives on each of these are as follows:

Automotive Council: two members

Industrial Biotechnology Innovation and Growth Leadership Forum: two members

Regulatory Policy Committee: two members

The Gateways to the Professions Collaborative Forum: 0 members.

Conditions of Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the *(a)* time and *(b)* financial costs to small businesses incurred in observing the statutory duty to consider Right to Request requests from employees. [18904]

Mr Davey: We estimate that two hours of employee time, and three hours of management time are required to process a request that is dealt with formally. This works out at approximately £62 per request.

Where a request is appealed we estimate four hours of employee time and six hours of management time to process an appeal that is dealt with formally. This works out at approximately £123 per appeal.

We have assumed that these costs apply to all sizes of business at the same rate.

Credit Reference Agencies

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had recent discussions with credit reference agencies on the process for correcting inaccurately recorded data. [19419]

Mr Davey: There have been no recent discussions with credit reference agencies on this matter.

If the credit information held on file is incorrect, consumers are advised to write to the credit reference agency or direct to the lender. The agency is under a statutory obligation to inform the consumer within 28 days if it has removed the entry from the file, amended the entry or taken no action. If, after writing to the lender or the credit reference agency, the information is still wrong or no response is received, the consumer is advised to contact the Information Commissioner.

Earlier this year credit reference agencies agreed a package of measures designed to improve consumers' access to and understanding of their credit reference files. I announced this on 12 July 2010.

Data Protection: EU Countries

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent progress has been made on developing a secure communications system based on quantum cryptography for data transmission to and from EU Member States. [16665]

Nick Herbert: I have been asked to reply.

Quantum cryptography as a basis for data transmission is being developed mainly within academia but also by a small number of commercial companies in Europe. It is not a fully mature technology and there are no immediate plans for the UK Government to develop a secure communications system for data transmission to and from EU member states based on it. Communications between EU member states are currently protected by Government approved cryptographic codes. There are currently no approved cryptographic codes using quantum cryptography for data transmission nor any immediate prospect of any being submitted for approval.

Departmental Internet

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what consideration his Department has given to increasing the accessibility and attractiveness to small businesses of its website. [18915]

Mr Davey: The BIS corporate website serves a broad range of audiences, with businesses comprising around 20% of visitors. The sections of the site of most interest to small businesses are 'Policies: Enterprise and business support' and 'Policies: Employment matters'.

The 'Enterprise and business support' and 'Employment matters' sections of the site have recently been reviewed and reorganised to simplify access to the information they contain on policy, legislation and services. They also provide clear signposting to Business Link guidance where relevant.

More generally, BIS is continuously reviewing its web content and structure to make the site more accessible and engaging for all users.

In line with the cross-Government channel strategy, content that provides practical guidance to small businesses has moved from the BIS website to the Business Link site, which is the official Government website for businesses.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18565]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on Friday 5 June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) which ceased to exist from that date.

In line with Cabinet Office requirements, BIS publishes information about staff sickness absence on a quarterly basis. The latest return showing absence between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 is available on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports

This includes information about the average number of working days lost to sickness at each grade during this period. The average figure across all BIS staff is 3.8 working days lost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since his Department's inception; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18776]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on Friday 5 June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) which ceased to exist from that date.

In line with Cabinet Office requirements, BIS publishes information about staff sickness absence on a quarterly basis. The latest return showing absence between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 is available on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports

This shows that 13,036 days have been lost to sickness during this period.

No central information is held about the cost of sickness absence in BIS; however, information about absence costs in the wider civil service is available in reports published by the Cabinet office from 2003 to 2007. These can be viewed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since his Department's inception. [18777]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was created on Friday 5 June 2009 from the merger of the Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department of Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS) which ceased to exist from that date.

Detailed breakdowns of absences within BIS are not centrally available; however, on a quarterly basis, in line with Cabinet Office requirements, we publish quarterly absence data on the BIS website. This includes the numbers of days lost to long-term absence (more than 21 working days), and short-term absence over the last 12 months; and the number of staff with no absence at all over the period. The latest return showing absence between 1 July 2009 and 30 June 2010 is available on the BIS website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/about/performance-reports

Departmental Work Experience

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many interns his Department has engaged in the last 12 months; and how many were *(a)* unpaid, *(b)* remunerated with expenses only and *(c)* paid a salary. [17216]

Mr Davey: This Department has employed about 23 interns and summer placement students in the last 12 months. All interns are paid either a training allowance or the basic pay for the grade of work they are doing.

Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills for what employment legislation his Department is responsible; and what progress has been made on the Government's proposed review of employment law. [18912]

Mr Davey: BIS is responsible for a number of areas of employment regulation. These include the national minimum wage (NMW), working time, age discrimination, dispute resolution, trade union law and family-friendly policy.

We are considering employment regulations area by area, over the long-term, and we have started to engage with interested parties as part of the review process. We expect to make an announcement on progress in the coming weeks.

Flexible Working

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the cost to small businesses of the extension of the right to request flexible working. [18903]

Mr Davey: On 30 September I announced the extension to the right to request flexible working to all parents of children aged 17, from the 1 April 2011. I have published a full impact assessment on this extension. The overall cost to small businesses of this extension is estimated at around £1 million per annum. This estimate assumes that the additional take-up rate of flexible working is the same across all firm sizes.

I have not yet made an estimate for the extension to the right to request flexible working to all employees, but I will publish an impact assessment on the extension alongside the consultation document.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has to bring forward further proposals for the right to request flexible working; [18905]

(2) what progress is being made on his Department's consultation on extending the right to request flexible working to all employees; [18909]

(3) what steps he is taking to consult small businesses on his proposals on the right to request flexible working. [18910]

Mr Davey: I plan to consult on the extension to the right to request flexible working to all employees in due course.

I will make the consultation document available to small business employers alongside all other interested parties.

On 15 September I ran a round table event at No. 10 to discuss consultation plans with a number of employers and representative groups. This event included a number of small business employers.

Foreign Investment in UK

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect on foreign direct investment in the UK of the application of UK and EU employment law. [18906]

Mr Davey: Employment legislation in the UK is constructed in a way that allows the greatest freedom for business and workers to find types and patterns of work that suit them while still maintaining universal basic minimum rights.

The employment regulation regime is one of the factors behind the success of the UK labour market and this is recognised by a number of international measures including the World Economic Forum's "Labour Market Efficiency" indicator (which ranks the UK eighth out of 139 countries) and the World Bank's Doing Business "Employing Workers" indicator (ranking the UK 35th out of 183 countries).

Furthermore the OECD in its seminal Jobs Study Review in 2006 identified the UK as one of the 'successful employment performers' and, despite the recession, the UK still has one of the highest employment rates in the world. Across the OECD, its "Employment Protection Legislation" indicator ranks the UK second only behind the US. This feature has worked in tandem with the Government's welfare to work policies. The Government's proposals for work programme and benefit reform aim to enhance these welfare to work policies.

The UK is rated as the best location in the European Union for the attraction of foreign skills[1] and a survey by Manpower conducted in 2009 found that companies in the UK have fewer difficulties in recruiting skilled workers than in most other European locations.

The UK is the number one recipient in Europe of FDI projects[2]. The UK is also the most attractive destination in Europe for FDI, according to the Ernst and Young European Attractiveness Survey 2010.

Source:

[1] Institute of Management Development, 2009.

[2] Ernst and Young/European Investment Monitor Surveys.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has assessed the effect on inward investment of the introduction of additional paternity leave. [18907]

Mr Davey: A full impact assessment of the costs and benefits to businesses of additional paternity leave was made prior to the introduction of regulations. No assessment was made of the indirect effect on inward investment.

The impact assessment can be found at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/09-1209-consultation-doc-paternity.pdf

Further Education

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to implement his proposal to introduce student loans for people taking courses at further education colleges; and if he will make a statement. [19497]

Mr Hayes: As set out in the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010, for adult further education and skills training the balance of funding will be shifted from the taxpayer towards the individuals and employers who benefit, including though the introduction of student loans The Department is considering the outcomes of the spending review alongside the responses to the recent consultation Skills for Sustainable Growth, which asked for views on the development of a new skills strategy. The outcomes of this will be published later in the autumn.

Higher Education and Student Finance Independent Review

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effect of the proposals in the Browne review of higher education on future graduates who are *(a)* men and *(b)* women. [18688]

Mr Willetts: Lord Browne conducted an independent review of higher education funding and student finance which was published on 12 October. The Government have accepted the broad thrust of the recommendations and will undertake their own equality assessment which we will publish alongside the Higher Education White Paper during the winter.

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the number of universities which will be in operation 12 months after the implementation of the proposals of the Browne Review of higher education. [18848]

Mr Willetts: We have no reliable evidence on which to make such an estimate. Our reforms to higher education will provide strong incentives for institutions to focus on providing high quality teaching as efficiently as possible. Over time, popular and successful institutions will be able to grow and we expect new providers to enter the sector providing they can offer teaching to the high standards students will expect. HEFCE will monitor the financial health and sustainability of institutions to protect the public investment in higher education. But HEIs are autonomous institutions and, if a university mismanages its affairs, we cannot offer a guarantee of protection.

Higher Education: Admissions

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many people resident in each parliamentary constituency applied to each higher education institution in each of the last five years for which information is available; [19107]

(2) how many people resident in each parliamentary constituency applied to enter an undergraduate course at each higher education institution in each of the last five years for which information is available; [19108]

(3) how many undergraduate students normally resident in each parliamentary constituency were accepted to each higher education institution in each of the last five years for which information is available. [19109]

Mr Willetts: Information on applicants and accepted applicants by individual institution is held by UCAS. UCAS does not issue data by higher education institutions as this is the subject of a confidentiality agreement between UCAS and the institutions.

Information on the total number of applicants and accepted applicants, produced by UCAS, will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Higher Education: Curriculum

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans he has for the future of the funding currently allocated by regional development agencies to strategically important and vulnerable subjects; [18870]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the implementation of the proposed reform of non-departmental public bodies on levels of support for strategically important and vulnerable subjects; [18871]

(3) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of funding for strategically important and vulnerable subjects in each of the next three years; [18872]

(4) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of funding for high-cost science subjects in each of the next three years; [18873]

(5) what assessment he has made of the contribution of strategically important and vulnerable subjects to economic growth; [18874]

(6) what estimate he has made of the likely change in the level of funding for each strategically important and vulnerable subject as a proportion of the total budget allocated to such subjects in each of the next three years; [18875]

(7) what factors he took into account when allocating funding for strategically important and vulnerable subjects; [18876]

(8) what proportion of the cost of courses in strategically and important vulnerable subjects in universities was covered by *(a)* central Government and *(b)* tuition fees in the most recent period for which figures are available. [18877]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) is charged with distributing teaching grant to higher education institutions according to a methodology it determines. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State plays no part in the discharge of that function. He cannot direct the amount of grant to be awarded to any particular subject or institution. In broad terms the funding system is designed to recognise the relative costs of teaching. Each subject is allocated to one of four price groups A to D. The range of teaching grant per full time equivalent undergraduate student ranges from £15,804 in group A to £3,951 in group D. In addition institutions receive fees of up to £3,290 per student per year. So for example the fee would cover 45% of the cost of a price group D course such as business studies, whereas the fee would cover 17% of the cost of a group A course such as medicine. Once allocated to a price group all subjects in that are treated equally in terms of the allocation of core teaching grant.

The right hon. Member the then Secretary of State wrote to HEFCE in 2004 seeking advice on which subjects are of such national and strategic importance that without additional support they may not survive through the usual operation of the market in student applications. Those courses currently identified as Strategically Important or Vulnerable Subjects (SIVS) are:

Chemistry, Engineering, Maths and Physics

Modern Foreign Languages and some area studies

Quantitative Social Science
Islamic studies

Advances in science and technology are key to UK economic growth and social prosperity. To achieve long-term progress, the UK relies on a strong base of science and engineering skills at all levels within the population and a healthy and thriving research base.

However, it should be noted that not all Science Technology Engineering and Maths courses (STEM) are designated as SIVS. Equally SIVS status does not necessarily indicate that a subject is expensive to deliver. Foreign languages and maths are in price group C for example.

HEFCE has chosen to support SIVS through a series of projects and initiatives aimed at maintaining entry to these subjects and building capacity in the higher education sector. The total amount of funding since 2005/06 is £350 million.

Future funding will be dependent upon the outcome of the spending review for higher education and the Regional Development Agencies. It will inform my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State's annual grant letter to HEFCE which will set the level of funding for 2011-12 and the allocations to the Regional Development Agencies in the same period.

The Browne Review recommended that future public funding of higher education should concentrate on priority subject areas. In addition it recommended changes to the bodies currently funding and regulating the system. The Government will respond to these and the other recommendations in its forthcoming Higher Education White Paper.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since his Department's inception; and if he will make a statement. [18772]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. The Department takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations; an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Internet

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on ensuring that all internet service providers have *(a)* equal access to fibre optic cables and *(b)* equal opportunities to lay new cables. [18528]

Mr Vaizey: BT Openreach runs the access part of network and provides a service to communication providers (CPs) on an equivalent basis.

On 7 October 2010, Ofcom, the independent regulator for the UK communications industry issued a statement ("Review of the wholesale local access market") which introduced new regulatory obligations on BT.

In particular, BT is required to supply wholesale access to its new fibre-to-the-cabinet (FTTC) and fibre-to-the-premise (FTTP) networks to other providers so that they can offer competing services to consumers. Given the current economic and technical circumstances, this wholesale access will take the form of a virtual access connection.

In addition, BT will be required to open up its duct and pole infrastructure so that other providers can deploy their own fibre access networks.

These two new regulatory obligations are intended to support both competition and investment in superfast broadband services.

Media

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage plurality in the media market. [19063]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

The Government believe it is important for the media to reflect different viewpoints at the national level and to safeguard democratic debate. Plurality in the media market is protected by promoting effective competition in relevant markets and regulating mergers to ensure they do not result in a loss of such competition. Statutory rules enforced by Ofcom separately place absolute restrictions on cross media ownership. Exceptionally, the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills may intervene in a media merger to address concerns about the need to maintain plurality in media ownership.

Mobile Telephone Contracts

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on cooling-off periods for mobile telephone contracts; and if he will make a statement. [19120]

Mr Vaizey: I have received no recent representations. Contracts are normally enforceable from the time they are concluded and statutory cooling off periods are provided only in exceptional circumstances where consumers may be in a particularly vulnerable position, for example, when making contracts in their home or at a distance. There are no statutory cooling off periods specifically related to the purchase of mobile phones.

North of England

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many visits *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have made to (i) Skipton and Ripon constituency, (ii) Yorkshire and the Humber and (iii) the North of England since May 2010. [18897]

Mr Davey: The Department's Ministers have undertaken 17 trips in total to the north of England during the period 12 May to 22 October 2010.

Details of trips to the north of England undertaken by the Department's officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development: Human Rights

Jon Trickett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the Government's policy was on the proposed incorporation of human rights standards into the revised Organisation of Economic Corporation and Development Common Approaches at the meeting of that organisation in Paris on 23 and 24 June 2010. [17003]

Mr Davey: The 2007 OECD Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits (the Common Approaches) already includes the need for member Export Credit Agencies (ECAs) to review the human rights impacts of projects they are asked to support which fall within the ambit of the Recommendation. When undertaking a review, ECAs are required to benchmark projects against the relevant aspects of the World Bank Safeguard Policies which cover human rights issues such as indigenous peoples and involuntary resettlement or where appropriate the Performance Standards of the International Finance Corporation which cover aspects of human rights such as labour and working conditions, community health and safety and security, land acquisition and involuntary settlement and indigenous peoples.

The Government are supporting work being undertaken by the OECD in its current review of the Common Approaches to examine the scope for developing further the assessment of human rights impacts of projects supported by the ECAs, which will help inform the content of a new Common Approaches agreement. ECGD is participating in that review.

Overseas Trade: Mongolia

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what the monetary value was of *(a)* imports from and *(b)* exports to Mongolia of goods and services in each UK sector in each of the last five years. [19269]

Mr Prisk: This information requested on UK exports and imports of goods with Mongolia in each sector between 2005-09, as well as the total for UK imports and exports with Mongolia for 2008-09 will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Parental Leave: EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department plans to take to implement the provisions of the EU Parental Leave Directive. [18890]

Mr Davey: The Parental Leave Directive implements a social partner framework agreement on Parental Leave. The UK implemented the original EU Parental Leave Directive (96/34/EC) in 1999. Following the European Social Partners' revision of the framework agreement, a revised EU Parental Leave Directive (2010/18/EU) which was adopted by the European Council in March 2010.

The Government will implement the provisions of the revised Directive as part of our coalition commitment to a system of flexible shared parental leave. We will be consulting on this system in due course.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has made on the effect on small businesses of implementation of the EU Parental Leave Directive. [18891]

Mr Davey: The Parental Leave Directive implements a social partner framework agreement on Parental Leave. The UK implemented the original EU Parental Leave Directive (96/34/EC) in 1999. Following the European Social Partners' revision of the framework agreement, a revised EU Parental Leave Directive (2010/18/EU) which was adopted by the European Council in March 2010.

In November 2009 the Department for Business Innovation and Skills prepared an Impact Assessment of the implications of the revised Directive, including on small firms. This document is available through the following link:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/files/file53640.pdf

Paternity Leave

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 335W, on paternity leave, what criteria his Department will use to determine whether shared paternal leave works for businesses; what method his Department used to estimate the proportion of small businesses to be affected by the introduction of additional paternity leave; what criteria were used to determine whether a small business would be affected; and when his Department proposes to *(a)* open and *(b)* close the consultation on its proposals for additional paternity leave. [18900]

Mr Davey: We will consult in due course on plans to introduce shared parental leave, listening to employers and employer representatives' views on how we can best meet the needs of affected businesses.

A full impact assessment, including methodology used to calculate the proportion of small businesses that would be affected by additional paternity leave, is available at

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/09-1209-consultation-doc-paternity.pdf

Additional paternity leave regulations came into effect in April 2010 for parents of children due on or after 3 April 2011. We have no further proposals on additional paternity leave on which to consult.

Retirement: Age

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what plans his Department has to consult on the ending of the default retirement age; what the likely timetable is for such consultation; and what plans he has to consult small businesses; [18908]

(2) what assessment his Department has undertaken of the effect on small businesses of the end of the default retirement age. [18923]

Mr Davey: A consultation on our proposals for phasing out the default retirement age commenced on 29 July. The consultation document incorporates the impact assessment which considers the impact on small firms. The closing date for the consultation was 21 October.

Alongside the consultation process, input is being provided by a standing stakeholder engagement group. Members include organisations representing employers, including small business, for example the Federation of Small Businesses and the British Chambers of Commerce.

Royal Mail

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that Royal Mail *(a)* retains its name and *(b)* is able to retain its Royal Charter in circumstances in which it is sold to an overseas buyer. [19265]

Mr Davey: The Government believe that Royal Mail should continue to retain its name and other royal associations as it will continue to be the provider of the universal postal service throughout the UK.

We appreciate that there may be concerns about the potential for misuse of these associations in the future, so we propose to put in place safeguards to ensure that they are used respectfully and appropriately at all times and that mechanisms exist to remove these privileges if necessary.

The Government are discussing these matters with the palace.

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to make it a condition of the sale of Royal Mail that the name Royal Mail be retained in perpetuity; and if he will make a statement. [19280]

Mr Davey: The Government consider that any buyer of Royal Mail, for commercial reasons and in recognition of the company's heritage, would wish to continue to use the name without the need for any conditions to be placed on them.

We do, however, recognise that there may be concerns about the potential for misuse of the name and other Royal associations if Royal Mail in the future, so we propose to put in place safeguards to ensure that they are used respectfully and appropriately at all times and that mechanisms exist to remove these privileges if necessary.

Science: Research

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to maintain the UK's attractiveness to the scientific, technical and research sectors. [18641]

Mr Willetts: The UK's research base is world leading: second only in research excellence to the United States, as measured by journal publications and citations. This position is not maintained by the level of spending alone: the UK has the most productive research base in the G8.

This Government recognise the fundamental role of science and research in rebalancing the economy and restoring economic growth. Despite enormous pressure on public spending, the overall level of funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms over the entire period covered by the spending review.

Science and research resource funding has been ring-fenced, creating a stable investment climate for science and research which allows universities and research institutes to plan strategically, and should give businesses, public services and charities the confidence to invest in the research base.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate his Department has made of the contribution that UK science and technology research makes to the global economy. [18642]

Mr Willetts: Single estimates of the contribution of the UK science and research base are not available as the benefits from science and research reflect in diverse areas of economic and social activity that cannot be easily aggregated together.

International comparisons of the relative contribution of the UK to global advances in science and research are followed through in the various assessments BIS undertakes of the performance of the research base, including

1. Annual returns under the economic impact reporting framework—available on Research Councils' websites. These give evidence of the international standing of funded by councils, peer reviewed as excellent and outstanding by international standards, as well as examples of international advice led by Research Councils investments such as Natural Environment Research Council (NERC) advice during the crises of international air space caused by the volcanic ash cloud.

2. Biannual international comparisons of spending and performance under the report "The International Comparative Performance of the UK Research Base" published in the BIS website. In this the UK ranks second in the world (after the USA) attracting 9% of world publications, 12% of world citations and 14% of the world's highly cited papers. The UK is also the most productive research base among the large economies of the G8, when considering publications and citations per pound spent.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to assist science and technology research institutions in contributing to economic growth. [18643]

Mr Willetts: The announcements made in the spending review recognise that science and technology research are critical to long term economic growth. Despite pressure on public spending, funding for science and research programmes has been protected in cash terms at £4.6 billion per annum, ring-fenced for the four years of the spending review. Over £200 million of funding will also be provided for an elite network of Technology and Innovation Centres.

Government are putting in place a range of measures to encourage the contribution of science and technology research institutions to economic growth. These include the Research Councils' Pathways to Impact, HEFCE's proposed Research Excellence Framework and reform to Higher Education Innovation Funding. The Technology Strategy Board will be the Government's prime channel through which we incentivise business-led technology innovation.

Secondary Education

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* sixth form colleges, *(b)* general further education colleges, *(c)* land-based colleges, *(d)* art, design and performing art colleges and *(e)* special designated colleges offer courses to 14 and 15-year-olds. [18540]

Mr Hayes: Information is not currently collected centrally on the number of further education institutions which offer courses to 14 and 15-year-olds. However, data are available on the number of Government-funded learners aged 14 and 15-years-old participating in further education institutions in 2008/09.

The following table shows the number of further education institutions with learners aged either 14 or 15-years-old participating on Government-funded courses in 2008/09.

Provider type	*Number of providers*
Sixth form college	60
General further education college (including tertiary)	201
Special college — agricultural and horticultural college	14
Special college — art and design college	—
Specialist designated college	1

Notes:
1. Age is based on learner age at the start of the academic year (31 August 2008).
2. Information in this table is based on all Government-funded learners. 3. These data include FE, apprenticeships/work-based learning, adult safeguarded learning and university for industry funding streams.
Source:
Individualised Learner Record.

Training: Females

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what his most recent estimate is of the number of women who have gained a qualification as a result of taking part in the Women and Work Sector Skills Pathway Initiative in *(a)* Redditch constituency, *(b)* Worcestershire and *(c)* England; [18647]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the number of women who have increased their salary levels as a result of taking part in the Women and Work Sector Skills Pathway Initiative in *(a)* Redditch constituency, *(b)* Worcestershire and *(c)* England. [18648]

Mr Hayes: Between April 2009 and March 2010 there were 196 learners across the national regions of England who reported achieving a qualification as a result of their participation in the Women and Work Programme. Data are not available at a regional or constituency level.

Between April 2009 and March 2010, 264 learners across the national regions of England achieved an increase in salary following training on the Women and Work Programme. Data are not available at a regional or constituency level.

Unemployment: North East

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to reduce the number of unemployed young people in the North East. [18187]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

Unemployment among young people is unacceptably high and the range of programmes we inherited is confusing. For these reasons, we will introduce a new single Work Programme in the first half of 2010. This will offer young people targeted personalised help and will be delivered through the best of private and voluntary sector providers.

However, we recognise that, in itself, the Work Programme will not be enough. On 4 October we launched two new measures: Work Clubs as a way of encouraging people who are out of work to exchange skills and share experiences and Work Together as a way of developing work skills through volunteering. We also announced the new enterprise allowance which will support unemployed people who wish to move off benefits into self-employment. We are continuing to develop further measures to encourage pre-employment training and work placements.

Working Hours: EU Law

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to maintain the UK's opt-out from the provisions of the Working Time Directive. [18902]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government are committed to limiting the application of the working time directive in the UK, including maintaining the flexibility provided by the right of individuals to opt out of the maximum 48-hour working week. We have made, and continue to make clear to the Commission and to partners in Europe, that we will engage positively and constructively with any further negotiations on the directive but that the UK position on the opt-out will remain absolutely firm.

TREASURY

BP: Tax Allowances

Mr Meacher: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much BP has received in tax relief in respect of measures to clean up the oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico; and what estimate he has made of the total sum to be foregone by the Exchequer in such relief. [18682]

Mr Gauke: It is not appropriate for the Government to comment on the confidential tax affairs of individual businesses.

Child Benefit

Ann McKechin: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many children in each constituency in Scotland live in households which will be affected by the proposed changes to the administration of child benefit he announced on 4 October 2010; and what estimate he has made of the average reduction in payments for such households; [16960]

(2) how many households earning over £44,000 per year are in receipt of child benefit in each constituency in Scotland. [16961]

Simon Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of households in Norwich South constituency in receipt of child benefit include *(a)* a higher rate taxpayer, *(b)* a lone parent and *(c)* both. [16532]

Kate Green: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the number of children in Stretford and Urmston constituency in households which will no longer be eligible for child benefit when his proposed rules on parental incomes are implemented. [17395]

Steve McCabe: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families in Birmingham, Selly Oak constituency who will no longer receive child benefit from 2013 under his proposals to withdraw child benefit from families where one or both parents are higher rate tax payers. [17308]

Paul Goggins: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households including one or more higher rate tax payers are in receipt of child benefit in Wythenshawe and Sale East constituency. [17551]

Mrs Moon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Bridgend constituency will be affected by the proposed changes to the administration of child benefit; and if he will make a statement. [18210]

Karen Bradley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households in Staffordshire Moorlands constituency *(a)* with at least one higher rate taxpayer and *(b)* with no higher rate taxpayers but a taxable household income which exceeds the higher rate tax threshold for an individual claim child benefit. [18420]

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of families in Livingston constituency in receipt of child benefit who will cease to be eligible for payments following the implementation of his proposals to change the administration of child benefit. [18636]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for Child Benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Child Benefit: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Livingston constituency are in receipt of child benefit. [18635]

Mr Gauke: The August 2009 snapshot of all Child Benefit claims shows that 15,195 families claim Child Benefit in the Livingston constituency on behalf of 25,555 children. This information can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18764]

Justine Greening: Information prior to 2005 was not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. Regarding disciplinary issues, it is the Treasury's policy not to release full details relating to numbers of staff fewer than five, where to do so might lead to the identification of individual cases.

On that basis the number of cases where disciplinary action was taken in the Treasury in each of the last six years were as follows:

Disciplinary Action

	Number
2005	[1]—
2006	9
2007	9
2008	[1]—
2009	[1]—
2010	[1]—

[1] Fewer than five

There have been fewer than five dismissed for matters relating to their disciplinary record. There have been no such cases in respect of the other issues raised by my hon. Friend.

Departmental Legal Costs

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the reasons are for the change in the amount spent by his Department on legal advice between *(a)* 2007-08 to 2008-09 and *(b)* from 2008-09 to 2009-10. [13356]

Justine Greening: It is regretted that the table provided in the answer given on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 940W is incorrect. It shows expenditure on legal advice by HM Treasury charged to some but not all relevant accounting codes. For the years 2007-08 and following, reference to all relevant codes shows the following spend for those years:

Financial year	*HM Treasury legal spend (£)*
2007-08	10,660,950
2008-09	23,100,900
2009-10	[1]20,850,000

[1] Using OEP methodology.

These figures include spend on both internal and external legal services. A substantial portion of the latter was expended in connection with HM Treasury's interventions in the financial sector and has been recovered from the institutions concerned, so the figures do not reflect the net cost to HM Treasury. It is not possible to distinguish advice from other legal services such as litigation.

The increase in expenditure between 2007-08 and 2008-09 was due to the increased legal work required to enable the Treasury to respond to the financial crisis. The slight decrease between 2008-09 and 2009-10 reflects the changing nature and level of the interventions required.

Departmental Redundancy Pay

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what severance payment was made to each *(a)* Minister and *(b)* special adviser in his Department who left office after the last general election. [14661]

Justine Greening: For information on severance payments made to Ministers, I refer my hon. Friend to the reply given by the Minister for the Cabinet Office on 5 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 55W to the hon. Member for Perth and North Perthshire (Pete Wishart). Information on salary levels for Ministers and other Government officers paid through the Treasury payroll are published in the Treasury Group's annual Resource Accounts, copies of which are available in the Library of the House.

In line with previous administrations, the Prime Minister will issue a written ministerial statement annually on the total cost of special advisers. The total cost of severance paid out to special advisers who left office after the last general election will therefore be published in due course.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18572]

Justine Greening: The following table lists the average working days lost per grade for HM Treasury employees due to sick absence in 2009-10.

Grade	*Average working days lost per employee*
B	8.2
C	6.5
D	2.9
E	2.5
SCS	0.6
Average for Department	3.6

Departmental Utilities

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on (i) electricity, (ii) water, (iii) heating and (iv) telephone services in each year since 1997. [7579]

Justine Greening: The available information is shown in the following tables:

HM Treasury

£000

	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephones*
2002-03	288	15	n/a	1,667
2003-04	260	19	n/a	1,437
2004-05	332	13	n/a	1,924
2005-06	431	22	311	1,636
2006-07	398	34	311	1,376
2007-08	1,000	40	246	2,102
2008-09	908	24	234	2,031
2009-10	855	50	250	2,160

Information prior to 2002-03 is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time.

The large increase in 2007-08 electricity charges was due to the introduction of Grouped Shared Services for HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce which resulted in HM Treasury assuming responsibility for an additional three buildings.

Data on heating prior to 2005-06 are not available.

The figure for 2007-08 included costs associated with Trevelyan House that was vacated in that year. The figures for 2007-08 and 2008-09 have been adjusted for a large accrual reversal in 2008-09 relating to 2007-08. Additionally, the figure for 2009-10 includes elements for service charges relating to the two previous years that cannot be disaggregated.

The large increase in telephone charges between 2006-07 and 2007-08 was due to the introduction of Grouped Shared Services for HM Treasury and the Office of Government Commerce.

Debt Management Office

£000

	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephones*
2002-03	32	n/a	n/a	111
2003-04	26	n/a	n/a	155
2004-05	39	n/a	n/a	166
2005-06	46	n/a	n/a	146
2006-07	65	n/a	n/a	185
2007-08	56	n/a	n/a	172
2008-09	45	n/a	n/a	176
2009-10	64	n/a	n/a	226

Information prior to 2002-03 is not available due to the introduction of a new accounting system at that time.

Spending on electricity covers the direct usage for the floors leased by DMO and a share of the common areas within the building. Electricity consumption for office space that is sub-leased by the DMO is recovered as income from the occupier.

Spending on water consumption and heating is aggregated into the quarterly service charge invoice and is not separately identifiable from DMO accounting records.

Asset Protection Agency

£000

	Electricity	*Water*	*Heating*	*Telephones*
2009-10	n/a	2	n/a	6

The APA was formed in December 2009. Spending on electricity and heating is paid by DMO and recharged as part of the quarterly service charge and is not separately identifiable.

There was no relevant spending by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee during the period in question.

EU Budget

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the outcome was of the discussions on the draft EU Budget for 2011 between the Economic Secretary to the Treasury and her counterparts in Brussels on 14 October 2010. [19214]

Justine Greening: In meetings with Members of the European Parliament, the Belgian presidency, Commissioner Semeta and other senior Commission representatives, I strongly argued the UK's case for a cash freeze: at a time of deep fiscal consolidation in member states, the Commission's proposed increase in the 2011 EU budget of 5.8% is simply not acceptable. I explained that the UK Government will continue to engage constructively in these negotiations, but are absolutely committed to seeing this increase reduced; and that the House of Commons had supported the Government's goals on 13 October. I urged Members of the European Parliament to vote against a budget increase on 20 October.

Negotiations on the 2011 EU budget are ongoing. I have made the UK Government's position and aims very clear to interlocutors at the EU level.

Excise Duties: Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his policy is on the duty derogation applicable to liquid petroleum gas *(a)* until 2014 and *(b)* in subsequent years. [18518]

Justine Greening: The fuel duty rate on an energy equivalent amount of liquefied petroleum gas for road use is set by reference to the main rate of fuel duty on a litre of petrol. A differential currently equivalent to a 35.79 pence per litre reduction in duty came into effect in April.

Under plans inherited by the Government the differential is set to reduce by the equivalent of 1p per litre each year from 2011 to 2014. Other uses of liquefied petroleum gas remain exempt from fuel duty. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review.

Financial Services Authority: Fees and Charges

Simon Kirby: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the effects on small insurance companies of the Financial Services Authority's new fee structure; and if he will make a statement. [19094]

Mr Hoban: The matter concerned is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), whose day-to-day operations are independent from Government control and influence. I have asked the FSA to write to the hon. Member on the issue he raises.

Financial Services: Regulation

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent discussions he has had with representatives of the financial services industry on the regulation of financial advisers. [19418]

Mr Hoban: The regulation of financial advisers is the responsibility of the Financial Services Authority (FSA), an independent body.

Treasury Ministers and officials have discussions with a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such discussion.

Land Use

Simon Hart: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what mechanisms are in place to assist people who have been affected by fraudulent land banking schemes. [17871]

Mr Hoban: Where land banking schemes fail within the definition of a Collective Investment Scheme in *section* 235 of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000, they can only be established, operated or wound up with authorisation by the Financial Services Authority (FSA).

The Financial Ombudsman Service (FOS) deals with complaints from consumers against firms that are regulated by the FSA and can require firms to pay compensation. The Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) can pay compensation to consumers with claims against firms that are regulated by the FSA and financially unable (or likely to be unable) to pay the claim themselves.

Where a firm operating a land banking scheme is not regulated by the FSA, its customers will not have access to redress through the FOS and the FSCS.

Loans: Interest Rates

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will introduce a cap on the annual percentage rate that commercial companies can charge customers on unsecured loans. [18524]

Mr Davey: I have been asked to reply.

I recently announced a joint BIS and HM Treasury review of consumer credit and personal insolvency and this Department issued a formal call for evidence on 15 October. Government have previously committed to give regulators the power to define and ban excessive interest rates on credit and store cards and our review will provide a framework for this, as well as other coalition commitments, to be considered.

The Office of Fair Trading (OFT) recently considered the possible introduction of price controls on interest rates on products such as pawnbroking, payday loans and home collected credit as part of its review of high cost consumer finance products. The review concluded that price controls would not be a suitable solution to the concerns the OFT identified. The OFT made a number of recommendations aimed at improving the market for consumers and these are also being considered as part of the review.

Personal Income

Mr Sanders: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will estimate the cost of recording the household income of all households with children in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [18534]

Mr Gauke: The information is not available in the format requested. HM Revenue and Customs does not hold income information for all households with children.

Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18278]

Danny Alexander *[holding answer 20 October 2010]:* On 20 October 2010 the Treasury published an overview of the impact of the spending review on groups protected by equalities legislation.

However, the Treasury does not dictate the details of how other Departments will live within their settlements—this will be for Departments to decide themselves. Other Government Departments will ensure that equality considerations are taken into account when these decisions are made. Decisions about the publication of equality impact assessments are also for individual Departments to make.

With regard to its own spending, the Treasury will ensure that equalities are taken into account as policies are developed following the spending review, in line with its legal obligations.

Revenue and Customs: Retford

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax office staff are located in Retford; how many such staff there will be in October 2013; how many there were in October 2007; and if he will make a statement. [19181]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff located in the HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) office at Kings Park house, Retford, in October 2007 and October 2010 is shown in the following table. As announced in 2008, as part of HMRC's Regional Review Programme, HMRC is withdrawing from Kings Park house in 2010-11 and there will be no back office staff in Retford in October 2013. Inquiry centre services will still be available for customers in Retford who need that level of support but the way these services are provided may change and the staffing provision has not yet been decided.

HMRC staff in King's Park house, Retford

As at 1 October	*FTE*[1]	*HC*[2]
2007	37.18	40
2010	3.00	3

[1] FTE = Full-time equivalent. This is the equivalent number of full-time posts.

[2] HC = Headcount. This is the total number of staff working in the organisation, irrespective of working patterns.

Tax Evasion

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an estimate of the likely cost to the Exchequer of tax evasion by *(a)* large businesses, *(b)* small and medium-sized enterprises and *(c)* individuals in the next (i) 12 months and (ii) five years. [18548]

Mr Gauke: No such estimates have been made.

HMRC published the latest available estimates of the tax gap in September 2010 in 'Measuring Tax Gaps 2010', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/measuring-tax-gaps-2010.htm.pdf

Taxation

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made an assessment of the combined effects of the VAT rise and changes in the personal tax allowance on those *(a)* under and *(b)* over the age of 65 years. [19344]

Mr Gauke: At the June Budget this Government showed their commitment to transparency by publishing more detailed distributional analysis of the impacts of their policies than has ever been done before. Charts A1-A4 in the June Budget show the impacts of tax, tax credit and benefit changes, including increases to the personal allowance and changes to VAT, and are available at:

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_annexa.pdf

This analysis shows that the impact by 2012-13 of measures that can be robustly assessed is progressive.

The Government are committed to providing fair support to all groups. The June Budget announced particular measures to help pensioners, including uprating the basic state pension in April 2011 by at least the equivalent of the retail price index.

Taxation: Domicil

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many *(a)* companies and *(b)* individuals have moved their tax domicile offshore in the last five months; and what estimate he has made of the consequent loss of revenue to the Exchequer through corporation tax. [18547]

Mr Gauke: Information on the number of companies and individuals that have moved their tax domicile in the last five months together with an estimate of the consequent loss of revenue to the Exchequer is not available.

VAT: Tax Rates and Bands

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* administrative cost to and *(b)* change in the level of business for the retail industry of the proposed increase in the rate of VAT to 20 per cent. [18523]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The impact assessment published at June 2010 Budget provides information on compliance costs to businesses of the increase of VAT to 20% in January 2010 and available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/junebudget_impact_assessments.pdf

Compliance costs information is not available at industrial sector level.

(b) The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 25 October 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility, I have been asked to reply to your recent question: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what recent estimate he has made of (b) change in the level of business for the retail industry of the proposed increase in the rate of VAT to 20 per cent. 18523

The interim OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast incorporated the estimated impact of policy measures announced at or before the Budget, including the increase in the standard rate of VAT from 17.5 per cent to 20 per cent that will take effect from 4 January 2011.

The interim OBR applied a range of fiscal multipliers to help inform its judgement on the overall impact of the June Budget measures on aggregate demand in the economy. These multipliers are set out in Table C8 of the June Budget document. A figure of 0.8, for example, means that a measure which has a direct effect of raising revenue by 1 per cent of GDP is estimated to reduce aggregate demand in the economy by 0.8 per cent in the short run.

For the June Budget the interim OBR applied a fiscal multiplier of 0.35 for the impact of the change in the VAT rate. The estimated impact of the increase in VAT on real GDP has not yet been published. In accordance with our publication procedure (which is available on our website at

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/release_policy.pdf)

we will release this information on 18 November 2010, at 11am. This information will be published on the OBR website, and copies of all published material will be made available to Parliament.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Anthony Bates

Mr Marcus Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an assessment of the effectiveness of the Child Support Agency's (CSA) management of the child maintenance case of Mr Anthony Bates of Nuneaton; for what reasons the case remains unresolved after three years; for what reasons the CSA wrote to Mr Bates on *(a)* 11 May and *(b)* 15 May 2010; and what recent assessment he has made of the CSA's overall performance in managing child maintenance cases. [13800]

Maria Miller: The Child Support Agency has improved its performance over the last few years against its objectives. This can be seen in the latest quarterly summary of statistics published on 28 July 2010:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0610.html

The objectives set by Government for the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, which has responsibility for the Child Support Agency, are set out in its business plan for 20010/11:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/pdf/Business-Plan-2010.pdf

Despite progress being made there remain important issues that need to be addressed to improve the service that the Child Support Agency is able to deliver.

It is a priority to ensure that an effective child maintenance system is available to families as part of the Government's commitment to supporting shared parenting and promoting parental responsibility. These issues are being considered with the management of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission and in light of the spending review.

The details about individual cases are confidential so I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner, who is responsible for the child maintenance system, to write to the hon. Member separately about the case of his constituent.

Children: Maintenance

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many children the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has collected maintenance payments through *(a)* the statutory arrangement and *(b)* private arrangements since 1 April 2010. [16097]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, in respect of how many children the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has collected maintenance payments through (a) the Statutory arrangement and (b) private arrangements since 1 April 2010 [16097].

The number of children benefiting from maintenance through the statutory maintenance service is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0610.html

As of June 2010, 849,100 children were benefiting from maintenance payments. Maintenance was collected through the Child Support Agency collection service as well as through maintenance direct arrangements set up by the Child Support Agency where non-resident parents pay parents with care directly.

The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission does not hold a register of private arrangements nor does it collect the maintenance payments for them as these arrangements are genuinely private.

However, the Commission estimates that by the end of March 2010 an additional 60,000 children were benefiting from maintenance payments via private arrangements following contact with the Commission's Child Maintenance Options Service.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18576]

Chris Grayling: The number of days on average Department staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill-health in 2009-10, as reported by the Department's personnel computer, is recorded in the following table.

Staff pay grade	*Average days*
Administrative Assistant	9.9
Administrative Officer	10.1
Executive Officer	7.7
Higher Executive Officer	4.9
Senior Executive Officer	4.0
Grade 7	3.4
Grade 6	2.9
Senior Civil Service	2.2
All pay grades	8.5

The Department has cut average sickness absence by 25% from 11.1 to 8.4 days between March 2007 and September 2010. It is committed to further reducing sickness absence to below its Departmental target of 7.7 days.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18717]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available in the required format and could only be provided at disproportionate costs. The Department has cut average sickness absence by 25% from 11.1 to 8.4 days between March 2007 and September 2010. It is committed to further reducing sickness absence to below its Departmental target of 7.7 days.

Disability Living Allowance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what arrangements he plans to put in place for the medical assessments to be introduced for all disability living allowance claimants from 2013-14; how such assessments will differ from those undertaken under current arrangements; and whether the new assessments will use the current A-Z of Medical Conditions as guidance. [16902]

Maria Miller: The Chancellor announced in the Emergency Budget that the Government will introduce a new assessment for DLA from 2013-14. The new assessment will be transparent, objective, fair and will be based on identifying the barriers disabled people have to overcome to participate in society and live more independent lives.

The Department is currently in the process of developing options for the new assessment in consultation with an independent group of specialists comprising of disability organisations, relevant health professionals and others with expertise in this area. This process will consider the nature of the assessment and what evidence will be required to support the new assessment and how that evidence will be gathered and used. At this stage in the development process the role of Customer Case Management (CCM) Guidance has not been determined.

To ensure that all organisations and individuals with an interest in this area have the opportunity to contribute their views on this reform, we will be holding a public consultation on the new proposals in autumn this year.

Employers' Liability: Insurance

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to respond to his Department's consultation on an employer's liability insurance bureau. [19343]

Chris Grayling: The public consultation closed on 5 May 2010. We are currently considering the replies we received and we will publish our response to the consultation in due course.

Employment and Support Allowance

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what correspondence he received from the Chancellor of the Exchequer on future reductions in spending on employment and support allowance between April 2011 and March 2015; and if he will make a statement; [15668]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on future budgetary allocations for benefits in advance of the Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [15716]

Chris Grayling: We are looking at a range of options for Welfare Reform, discussions continue and decisions on allocations will be made in the overall context of the spending review.

Employment Schemes: Dartford

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Dartford constituency participated in *(a)* a community taskforce and *(b)* work-focused training programme in the last 12 months. [18669]

Chris Grayling: Within the constituency of Dartford between November 2009 and the end of July 2010:

(a) 20 people started the Community Task Force;

(b) 10 people started the Young Person's Guarantee Work Focussed Training and 20 people started Routes into Work Pre-Employment Training.

Note:

Published official statistics are only currently available up until the end of July 2010.

Employment Schemes: Disability

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people he expects to have participated in the Work Choice programme by 2015. [19266]

Maria Miller: We expect around 79,000 people to have access to the Work Choice programme by 2015.

Employment Schemes: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the Answer of 13 October 2010, Official Report, column 338W, on employment schemes: Peterborough, how many people in Peterborough constituency completed *(a)* Community Task Force, *(b)* Routes Into Work and *(c)* Young Person's Guarantee Work Focused training programmes the latest period for which figures are available. [18180]

Chris Grayling: Statistics on the numbers of completers is not available.

In the constituency of Peterborough and up to the end of July 2010:

(a) 90 people started the Community Task Force;

(b) 20 people started Routes into Work Pre-Employment Training; and

(c) 30 people started Young Person's Guarantee Work Focussed Training.

Note:

Published official statistics are only currently available up until the end of July 2010.

Employment Schemes: Young People

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which programmes sponsored by his Department are designed to assist young people into employment in Redcar constituency. [16530]

Chris Grayling: Young people in Redcar have access to a range of programmes designed to help them into employment. These provide jobsearch skills, temporary employment, help to become self employed, work experience and volunteering to improve employablility. Where people remain unemployed after 12 months, they enter Flexible New Deal.

Unemployment amongst Britain's youth is unacceptably high and this range of programmes is confusing. For these reasons, we will introduce a new single work programme in the first half of 2010. This will offer young people targeted personalised help and will be delivered through the best of private and voluntary sector providers. In the meantime we will ensure young people continue to have access to employment support prior to the implementation of the work programme.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18712]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions and its non-departmental public bodies do not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. The Department and its non-departmental public bodies take account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all their policies and practices, as they do other relevant legal obligations. An accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Housing Benefit

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of low-income working households in receipt of housing benefit; [17570]

(2) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the number of low income working households receiving housing benefit in Scotland. [17573]

Steve Webb: The most common measure of low income used is based on a threshold of an income below 60% of contemporary median income, adjusted to take account of family size and composition.

Of the estimated 700,000 households where someone is in work and recorded receipt of housing benefit, the number of households with income below 60% of median equivalised household income in 2008/09 was 200,000 (30%) Before Housing Costs and 400,000 (54%) After Housing Costs.

The number of households in Scotland where someone is in work and recorded receipt of housing benefit is less than 50,000.

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on Households Below Average (HBAI) Income data sourced from the 2008/09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.

2. Figures have been presented on both a Before Housing Cost and After Housing Cost basis. For Before Housing Cost, housing costs (such as rent, water rates, mortgage interest payments, structural insurance payments and ground rent and service charges) are not deducted from income, while for After Housing Cost they are.

3. The Family Resources Survey is known to under-record some benefit receipt so the estimates presented should be treated with caution.

4. Estimates from the Family Resources Survey are presented rounded to the nearest 100,000 households. If the figure is less than 50,000, this would be rounded down to zero, so instead such figures are presented as "less than 50,000" or "negligible".

5. A working household has been defined as a household where at least one adult is in work.

Industrial Injuries

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* investigations his Department undertakes in respect of compliance with the provisions of the Reporting of Injuries, Diseases and Dangerous Occurrences Regulations 1995. [18337]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

(a) HSE monitors compliance rates with RIDDOR through annual questions in the Labour Force Survey that is organised by the Office for National Statistics. This figure is published annually by HSE as part of the national workplace health and safety statistics. For 2008/09, the compliance rate was estimated at 58% for non-fatal injuries.

(b) HSE may investigate compliance with RIDDOR where a complaint is made that a reportable incident has not been investigated or where information of non-reporting comes to light during the course of other interventions such as a proactive inspection. Decisions on whether to investigate are guided by HSE's Enforcement Policy Statement and take into account factors such as the likely seriousness of any breach of the law, relevant information about the dutyholder's past performance and HSE enforcement priorities.

HSE operational databases do not record investigations into failures to report injuries, cases of ill-health and dangerous occurrences under RIDDOR as discrete items and consequently figures for the numbers of investigations are not readily available and may only be obtained at a disproportionate cost.

Jobseeker's Allowance: Pendle

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps his Department is taking to assist residents in Pendle constituency who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance to enter employment. [18586]

Chris Grayling: The Government aims to introduce a new national Work Programme by summer 2011. This will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help to a wide range of customers—from jobseeker's allowance recipients who have been out of work for some time, to customers who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years.

Alongside the Work Programme we will deliver a more flexible advisory service in Jobcentre Plus, giving local offices more control and allowing them to deliver in a way that is responsive to local needs.

To get Britain working we also need to harness a wide range of talent, ideas and good practice with help from business, the public and voluntary sector and local deliverers of services.

We recently launched Work Clubs as a way of encouraging people who are out of work to exchange skills and share experiences; and Work Together as a way of developing work skills through volunteering. We also announced that we will introduce a New Enterprise Allowance which will support unemployed people who wish to move off benefits into self employment.

We are developing further options to encourage pre-employment training and work placements through Service Academies and greater insight into the world of work through Work Experience.

KPMG

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the monetary value is of his Department's contracts with KPMG; and what the monetary value is of each such contract entered into since his appointment. [17051]

Chris Grayling: We currently have two contracts with KPMG, one for £100,000 and one Pro-Bono contract which attracted a nominal consideration of £1.

The monetary value of each contract entered into since the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions appointment is £100,001.

Motability

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the value for money of the Motability scheme. [17669]

Maria Miller: Independent analysis commissioned by Motability indicates that the Car Scheme is typically 35% cheaper on a like-for-like basis then other lease providers for the same models, reflecting the Scheme's economies of scale and the significant discounts it is able to negotiate as a result.

At present, the Motability Scheme has over 300 models available which can be leased by a disabled person using the Higher Rate Mobility Component of their Disability Living Allowance (currently £49.85 per week). Motability provides regular updates to the Department and continues to work with vehicle manufacturers and other business partners to deliver the best possible value for its disabled customers.

National Insurance Contributions: Females

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps Jobcentre Plus takes to assist women who do not have a full national insurance contribution record to re-enter the workplace. [17662]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps Jobcentre Plus takes to assist women who do not have a full national insurance contribution record to re-enter the work place. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus does not differentiate the support given to customers by way of their gender or national insurance contribution record. Customers wishing to re-enter the workplace can benefit from a range of help, including advice on jobsearch techniques, signposting to appropriate job-search channels, skills training and help with costs associated with returning to work. However, eligibility for these services is often dependant on the customer's circumstances, including the benefits they receive and the length of time they have been unemployed.

As a minimum, all customers have access to an extensive database of job vacancies and can access jobsearch support material either from their local Jobcentre or on-line via the DirectGov website.

Jobcentre Plus Personal Advisers provide support to customers, and partners of customers who are claiming a benefit, administered by Jobcentre Plus, or who are receiving Pension Credit. Personal Advisers work with each customer to agree a personalised return to work plan. This may include participation in one, or more, of our employment and training initiatives, providing help such as support with developing a CV, confidence building, work trials, or work-focused training.

National Insurance: Foreign Nationals

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many national insurance numbers were issued to *(a)* non-UK EU nationals and *(b)* nationals of each non-EU state in each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available. [19369]

Chris Grayling: The information requested has been placed in the Library of both Houses.

Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many *(a)* staff of Jobcentre Plus and *(b)* other staff of his Department were based in (i) Retford and (ii) Worksop on (A) 1 October 2007 and (B) the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many such staff he expects to be based at those locations on 1 October 2013. [19178]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking how many a) staff of Jobcentre Plus and b) other staff at his Department were based in i) Retford and ii) Worksop on a) 1 October 2007 and b) the most recent date for which figures are available; and how many such staff he expects to be based at those locations on 1 October 2013. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

The information in the following table is set out in full-time equivalents.

	October 2007	*June 2010*
Retford Jobcentre Plus	14	22
Worksop Jobcentre Plus	47	51

	October 2007	*June 2010*
Worksop (other Department staff)	7	3

Source:
Dataview

Jobcentre Plus continues to monitor workloads and as part of that, staffing levels are reviewed on a regular basis. However, staffing and spending plans for the business will be dependent on the levels announced in the Spending Review settlement set out by HM Treasury. Until we have worked through the detail of this, we are unable to give estimates of staffing levels for October 2013.

Occupational Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will estimate the number of *(a)* women and *(b)* people in black and minority ethnic groups who would be exempted from the auto-enrolment into a workplace pension scheme if the level of qualifying earnings were increased to (i) £6,000, (ii) £7,000, (iii) £8,000, (iv) £9,000, (v) £10,000, (vi) £11,000 and (vii) £12,000. [19342]

Steve Webb: People are not saving enough for their retirement. The coalition agreement therefore makes clear the Government's commitment to introducing automatic enrolment into a workplace pension. We believe that this will bring about a step-change in the number of people saving for their retirement.

The Pensions Act 2008 provides that, from 2012, workers between the age of 22 and State Pension Age, with annual earnings in at least one job of more than £5,035 (2006 earnings terms) will be eligible for automatic enrolment into a qualifying pension scheme, unless they are already participating in such a scheme.

Our analysis indicates that around 10-11 million people will be eligible for automatic enrolment in a workplace pension scheme from 2012. That's why automatic enrolment is so important, but it's crucial that we get the detail right. So we instigated the Making Automatic Enrolment Review to ensure that automatic enrolment is implemented in the most effective way.

An estimate of the numbers of *(a)* women, and *(b)* people in black and minority ethnic groups who would no longer be eligible to be automatically enrolled into a workplace pension consequent on the qualifying level of earnings being increased to (i) £6,000, (ii) £7,000, (iii) £8,000, (iv) £9,000, (v) £10,000, (vi) £11,000 and (vii) £12,000 in 2006 earnings terms are provided in the following tables. The figures are rounded to the nearest 500,000 because they are unlikely to be reliable below that level. The tables therefore include an additional column, showing the composition of the resultant eligible group.

Table A: Women

	Number of additional women excluded	*Composition of resultant eligible group (% women)*
(i) £6,000	Less than 0.5 million	38
(ii) £7,000	Around 0.5 million	37
(iii) £8,000	0.5 to 1 million	36
(iv) £9,000	Around 1 million	35
(v) £10,000	1 to 1.5 million	34
(vi) £11,000	1.5 to 2 million	33
(vii) £12,000	Around 2 million	32

Note:
Ranges are rounded to the nearest 500,000.

Table B: People from Black and minority ethnic communities

	Number of additional people from BME communities excluded	*Composition of resultant eligible group (% BME)*
(i) £6,000	Less than 0.5 million	12
(ii) £7,000	Less than 0.5 million	12
(iii) £8,000	Less than 0.5 million	12
(iv) £9,000	Less than 0.5 million	12
(v) £10,000	Less than 0.5 million	12
(vi) £11,000	Less than 0.5 million	12
(vii) £12,000	Less than 0.5 million	12

Note:
Ranges are rounded to the nearest 500,000

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who would be excluded from the requirement to pay into a workplace pension in circumstances in which the qualifying level of earnings, in 2006 earnings terms, was *(a)* £5,035, *(b)* £6,000, *(c)* £7,000, *(d)* £8,000, *(e)* £9,000, *(f)* £10,000, *(g)* £11,000 and *(h)* £12,000. [19345]

Steve Webb: People are not saving enough for their retirement. The coalition agreement therefore makes clear the Governments commitment to introducing automatic enrolment into a workplace pension. We believe that this will bring about a step-change in the number of people saving for their retirement.

The Pensions Act 2008 provides that, from 2012, workers between the age of 22 and State Pension Age, with annual earnings in at least one job of more than £5,035 (2006 earnings terms) will be eligible for automatic enrolment into a qualifying pension scheme, unless they are already participating in such a scheme.

This will not place a requirement on employees to pay into a workplace pension scheme. They will be able to opt out of the workplace pension scheme, and in some cases the employer may contribute more than the minimum, reducing or even eliminating the need for an employee contribution.

Our analysis indicates that around 10-11 million people will be eligible for automatic enrolment in a workplace pension scheme from 2012. That's why automatic enrolment is so important, but it's crucial we get the detail right. So we instigated the Making Automatic Enrolment Review to ensure that automatic enrolment is implemented in the most effective way.

An estimate of the numbers of people who would not be automatically enrolled into a workplace pension consequent on the qualifying level of earnings being increased to £6,000, £7,000, £8,000, £9,000, £10,000, £11,000, and £12,000 in 2006 earnings terms is provided in the following table.

	Number of additional people who would be excluded from automatic enrolment
£5,035	0
£6,000	Less than 0.5 million
£7,000	0.5 to 1 million
£8,000	1 to 1.5 million
£9,000	1 to 1.5 million
£10,000	1.5 to 2 million
£11,000	2 to 2.5 million

	Number of additional people who would be excluded from automatic enrolment
£12,000	2.5 to 3 million

Note:
Ranges are rounded to the nearest 500,000

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the introduction of a three-month waiting period before auto-enrolment into a workplace pension scheme on *(a)* the level of pension provision for (i) temporary and agency workers and (ii) all employees and *(b)* the number of people choosing to opt out of such a scheme. [19356]

Steve Webb: People are not saving enough for their retirement. The coalition agreement therefore makes clear the Government's commitment to introducing automatic enrolment into a workplace pension. We believe that this will bring about a step-change in the number of people saving for their retirement.

The Pensions Act 2008 provides that, from 2012, workers between the age of 22 and State Pension Age, with annual earnings in at least one job of more than £5,035 (2006 earnings terms) will be eligible for automatic enrolment into a qualifying pension scheme, unless they are already participating in such a scheme.

Our analysis indicates that around 10-11 million people will be eligible for automatic enrolment in a workplace pension scheme from 2012. That's why automatic enrolment is so important, but it's crucial that we get the detail right. So we instigated the Making Automatic Enrolment Review to ensure that automatic enrolment is implemented in the most effective way.

We estimate that the introduction of a three month Waiting Period would reduce the total number of people eligible for automatic enrolment by around 500,000 at any particular point in time. Of course, many of these people would go on to be automatically enrolled after three months.

Analysis of the 2007 Labour Force Survey indicates that 22 percent of those in the eligible group, and in employment for less than three months, are employed through an agency. This compares to 14 percent of the total eligible group who are employed through an agency. Thus, we estimate that the introduction of a three-month waiting period will exclude around 110,000 people employed through an agency from the eligible group for automatic enrolment.

There is little direct evidence of the effect of waiting periods on the likelihood of an individual choosing to opt-out following automatic enrolment, and it is very difficult to estimate the likely impact. What evidence there is from the United States, where schemes already operate waiting periods of up to 12 months, shows that take up rates are still high and waiting periods do not seem to adversely affect opt-out rates.

Our assumptions of the numbers of people who will opt out of automatic enrolment into a qualifying pension scheme is based on analysis of the Department for Work and Pension's 2009 survey of individual's attitudes and likely response to the workplace pension reforms. These rates are not dependent on the length of time an individual has been in employment, and therefore do not change as a result of introducing a 3 month waiting period.

Pensions

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent consideration he has given to the adequacy of pension providers' management of environmental, social and governance risks. [17743]

Steve Webb: The Government fully support the highest standards of corporate governance and ethical behaviour and considers such high standards can contribute to better company performance by helping a board discharge its duties in the best interests of shareholders. The Government continue to keep under review the role of pension scheme trustees in the governance process and, in particular, the adequacy of the rules that apply to the investment of scheme funds.

Post Office Card Account

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the monetary value of pensions and benefits payments that have been transferred from his Department to holders of the Post Office card account in each week of the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and what estimate he made of the proportion of such payments attributable to *(a)* state pension payments and *(b)* benefits other than the state pension. [19501]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the requested format. The following table provides details for each month during the 12 month period October 2009 to September 2010.

	2009			*2010*								
	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*
Total DWP payments into POca (£ billion)	1.66	2.17	2.10	1.47	1.58	1.90	1.87	1.57	1.67	1.62	1.84	1.63
State Pension payments (£ billion)	0.75	0.96	1.06	0.58	0.72	0.88	0.89	0.73	0.74	0.74	0.88	0.73
State Pension %	45.26	44.31	50.64	39.46	45.92	46.36	47.69	46.26	44.58	45.65	47.90	44.90
Non-State Pension benefits (£ billion)	0.91	1.21	1.04	0.89	0.85	1.02	0.98	0.85	0.92	0.88	0.96	0.90
Non-State Pension %	54.74	55.69	49.36	60.54	54.08	53.64	52.31	53.74	55.42	54.35	52.10	55.10

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many Post Office card accounts were closed in each month of the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and what proportion of those accounts had been used to enable the account holder to receive *(a)* the state pension and *(b)* benefits other than the state pension; [19502]

(2) how many new Post Office card accounts were opened in each month of the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available; and what proportion of those accounts has been opened to enable the account holder to receive *(a)* the state pension and *(b)* benefits other than the state pension. [19503]

Steve Webb: Information about the proportion of accounts used for *(a)* State Pension and *(b)* benefits other than the State Pension is not available in the requested format. The following table provides details of the number of Post Office card accounts opened and closed during the 12 month period October 2009 to September 2010.

	2009			*2010*								
	Oct	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*March*	*April*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*
POcas												
Opened	14,289	15,043	12,908	10,404	16,100	12,118	8,264	9,036	8,668	10,059	8,853	9,756
Closed	30,751	26,389	26,217	57,710	53,437	61,673	61,978	50,094	54,081	56,679	37,993	38,573

Poverty: Redcar

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what proportion of *(a)* people, *(b)* children and *(c)* pensioners in Redcar constituency were living in poverty in each year since 1997; [16535]

(2) how many children were living in relative poverty in Redcar constituency in each year since 1997. [16536]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of people, children and pensioners living in relative poverty across the UK are published in Households Below Average Income (HBAI). This uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size using various thresholds of low income. As they are based on survey data, poverty estimates published in HBAI only allow breakdowns to Government office region and analysis by parliamentary constituency is not possible. However, figures for the North East Government office region are set out in Table 1, 2 and 3.

Table 1: Number in millions and percentage of people in relative poverty in the North East of England, Before Housing Costs (BHC) and After Housing Costs (AHC)

		Million (and %) of individuals
	Relative poverty	
Period	*BHC*	*AHC*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.6 (26%)	0.8 (30%)
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.6 (26%)	0.7 (29%)
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.6 (24%)	0.7 (27%)
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.6 (23%)	0.7 (26%)
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.6 (22%)	0.6 (24%)
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.6 (22%)	0.6 (24%)
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.5 (21%)	0.6 (23%)
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.5 (21%)	0.6 (23%)
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.5 (21%)	0.6 (24%)
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.6 (22%)	0.6 (25%)

Table 2: Number in millions and percentage of children living in relative poverty in the North East of England, Before Housing Costs (BHC)

	Million (and %) of children
Period	*Relative poverty—BHC*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.2 (34%)
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.2 (34%)
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.2 (30%)
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.2 (32%)
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.2 (30%)
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.2 (31%)
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.2 (28%)
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.2 (2[illegible]%)
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.1 (28%)
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.1 (28%)

Table 3: Number in millions and percentage of pensioners living in relative poverty in the North East of England, After Housing Costs (AHC)

Period	*Million (and %) of pensioners* *Relative poverty—AHC*
1997-98 to 1999-2000	0.1 (31%)
1998-99 to 2000-01	0.1 (31%)
1999-2000 to 2001-02	0.1 (28%)
2000-01 to 2002-03	0.1 (27%)
2001-02 to 2003-04	0.1 (23%)
2002-03 to 2004-05	0.1 (20%)
2003-04 to 2005-06	0.1 (17%)
2004-05 to 2006-07	0.1 (17%)
2005-06 to 2007-08	0.1 (19%)
2006-07 to 2008-09	0.1 (18%)

Notes:

1. These statistics are based on the Households Below Average Income series, sourced from the Family Resources Survey.
2. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Small differences should be treated with caution as these will be affected by sampling error and variability in non-response.
3. The reference period for Households Below Average Income figures are single financial years. Three survey years have been combined as regional single year estimates are subject to volatility.
4. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' (HBAI) series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition—an income measure that acts as a proxy for the standard of living.
5. For the Households Below Average Income series, incomes have been equivalised using Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) modified equivalisation factors.
6. Numbers of adults and children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 100,000, while proportions have been rounded to the nearest percentage point.
7. Relative poverty is defined as the number (or percentage) of given group (all people, children, pensioners) living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.
8. Poverty for all people is presented on both a BHC and AHC basis. Children poverty is presented on a BHC basis and pensioners poverty on an AHC basis. This takes account of the notion that housing costs reflect the standard of living of working age families (with children), while they do not for pensioners, nearly three quarters of whom own their own home and therefore gain value from it that is not captured by the corresponding low housing costs relative to the working age population. Considering pensioners' incomes compared to others after deducting housing costs allows for more meaningful comparisons of income between working age people and pensioners, and overtime.

Source:

Households Below Average Income, DWP

Redundancy: Wolverhampton South West

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assistance his Department has provided to residents of Wolverhampton South West constituency who have been made redundant in the last 12 months; [17998]

(2) what steps his Department is taking to assist residents in Wolverhampton South West constituency who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance to secure employment. [17999]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is a matter for the chief executive of Jobcentre Plus, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your questions asking what assistance his Department has provided to residents of Wolverhampton South West constituency who have been made redundant in the last 12 months and; what steps his Department is taking to assist residents in Wolverhampton South West constituency who are in receipt of jobseeker's allowance to secure employment. This is something that falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive.

Jobcentre Plus's Rapid Response Service (RRS) is automatically offered to all employers declaring more than 20 redundancies. We may also offer the service to employers declaring less than 20 redundancies. The service aims to enable people who are made redundant to move quickly into alternative employment without the need to claim welfare benefits and can be accessed by people as soon as they are under notice of redundancy. In Wolverhampton South West, Jobcentre Plus has worked with Wolverhampton Local Authority, Better West Midlands and other partners to offer pre-redundancy support including job search techniques, benefit advice and access to financial support to cover the costs of re-training.

Customers claiming Jobseeker's Allowance in Wolverhampton South West have access to a range of support including jobsearch; one to one advisor support, help with writing CVs, training, work experience and more specialist help depending on the jobseekers need and length of their claim.

Jobcentre Plus work with a number of local employers in the area including Sainsbury's, KFC, C&S Care, BHS and the Black Country Hotelier's Consortium and brings their current vacancies to the attention of jobseekers living within the Wolverhampton area. To develop new Get Britain Working measures including Work Clubs and Work Together, Jobcentre Plus works closely with a number of voluntary and partner organisations within the area such as Wolverhampton Voluntary Services Council.

I hope this information is helpful.

Remploy

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to discuss with hon. Members the future of Remploy Ltd. [19264]

Maria Miller: I am happy to consider and discuss representations from all those who have an interest in improving the employment prospects of disabled people.

Social Security Benefits: East Sussex

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in *(a)* East Sussex and *(b)* Hastings and Rye constituency were in receipt of benefits other than disability living allowance of more than £500 a week in the latest period for which figures are available. [18425]

Maria Miller: The information requested is available only at Great Britain level. Latest estimates show that in 2010/11 there are around 100,000 working age households in receipt of more than £500 a week in all benefits and tax credits, including Disability Living Allowance. If Disability Living Allowance is excluded then around 50,000 working age households are in receipt of more than £500 a week.

The Chancellor's announcement of a benefit cap was informed by high-level consideration of the broad impacts. We are now working up the more detailed design of the caps. When we introduce legislation for the implementation of the caps, we will publish an impact assessment.

Note:

All figures are rounded to the nearest 50,000.

Source:

DWP Policy Simulation Model, based on the 2008/09 Family Resources Survey data.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many new claimants of *(a)* incapacity benefit and *(b)* employment and support allowance there were in each relevant year since 2005. [16916]

Chris Grayling: The information as requested is not available.

However, statistics on total on-flows to incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance and employment and support allowance are available. These are shown in the following tables, but will include both new claimants and any subsequent repeat claims.

Number of incapacity benefit (IB/SDA) commencements—Great Britain and abroad

	Number of commencements
2005	595,220
2006	578,190
2007	583,410
2008	542,900
2009	54,390
Quarter	
February 2010	8,770

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Years are based on the sum of four quarters ending February, May, August and November.
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. Data will include those claimants who make another claim to incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance.
5. Latest figures are for February 2010.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions, Information Directorate, 5% sample.

Number of employment and support (ESA) commencements—Great Britain and abroad

Quarter	*Number of commencements*
November 2008	54,150
February 2009	141,320
May 2009	160,740
August 2009	164,910
November 2009	159,600
February 2010	154,960

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Data published at:
http://www.dwp.gov.uk/
(ESA)
3. Employment and support allowance (ESA) replaced incapacity benefit and income support paid on the grounds of incapacity for new claims from 27 October 2008.
4. The figures relating to employment support allowance have been thoroughly quality assured to National Statistics standard however it should be noted that this is a new benefit using a new data source which may not have reached steady state in terms of operational processing and retrospection. Hence most recent data shown is provisional (P).

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% WPLS.

State Retirement Pensions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* men and *(b)* women aged 50 to 59 years who are unable to work; and what assessment he has made of the likely effects on each of those groups of the implementation of the proposed change in the state pension age. [19505]

Steve Webb: The Government's full response to the review of State Pension age will be published shortly. An impact assessment and equality impact assessment will also be published. These include gender impact covering the differences between men's and women's employment rates at older ages, and the reasons for being out of the labour market. Copies will be placed in the library of the House.

Tribunals Service: Standards

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Tribunal Service in respect of employment and benefit tribunals; and what plans he has for future targets for the performance of that service. [17438]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

The Tribunals Service Framework Document requires the agency to report its performance in its Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House and on the Tribunals Service website, www.tribunals.gov.uk. In addition, each year Ministers have approved a Business Plan for the Tribunals Service. Copies of this are also available on the Tribunals Service website. The Tribunals Service has also published detailed official annual statistics for the operational year 2009-10 and, most recently, for the first quarter of 2010-11. These are available on the website.

On 1 April 2011, the Ministry of Justice plans to bring Her Majesty's Courts Service and the Tribunals Service into a new, single organisation. Performance targets for that new agency will be published in the new organisation's first Business Plan.

Unemployed People: Vetting

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of unemployed people who are awaiting Criminal Records Bureau checks to be completed before they can commence work; and if he will make a statement. [16726]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not collated centrally and could only be provided at a disproportionate cost.

Unemployment: Older People

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent steps his Department has taken to assist unemployed people aged over 55 years into employment. [17601]

Chris Grayling: The Department has announced plans for radical reforms to the welfare to work system, including the introduction of the new Work Programme, due to be rolled out nationally from summer 2011. The Work Programme will support a wide range of customers, including older people, and will offer an integrated and personalised system of back to work support for the first time.

The Department currently has measures for Jobseeker's Allowance customers aged over 50 years who need more help because of age-related issues. The measures are due to run until March 2011 and give customers extra interview time with an adviser and early access to intensive help and work trials. Jobcentre Plus advisers receive training on age issues where appropriate.

The Department worked with The Age and Employment Network to develop a best practice guide for provider organisations to use when delivering back to work services for customers aged over 50 years which launched in July 2010.

The Department's Age Positive initiative supports employers with recruiting older workers, in addition to giving advice about training and retaining them. In August 2010, the initiative began working with business leaders in nine main occupational sectors to encourage a change in workplace attitudes; manage the transition to operating without retirement ages; and maximise the benefits from an age diverse workforce.

The Government is consulting on phasing out the Default Retirement Age from April 2011, in order to help older people remain in work and bring about a change in attitudes amongst employers and individuals about the benefits of working for longer. The consultation ends on 21 October and the Government response will be published in autumn 2010.

Winter Fuel Payment: Erith and Thamesmead

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many residents of Erith and Thamesmead constituency in receipt of winter fuel payment are higher rate tax payers. [18846]

Steve Webb: The Department does not hold information about the income of Winter Fuel Payment recipients as this is not required to establish entitlement.

The latest available information about the numbers of people who received a Winter Fuel Payment in Erith and Thamesmead constituency is in the document Winter Fuel Payment recipients 2009-10 by Parliamentary Constituencies and Gender (All). This is available in the House of Commons Library and on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?paqe=wfp.

Winter Fuel Payments

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people who are in receipt of the winter fuel allowance are aged *(a)* between 60 and 64 years, *(b)* 65 to 66 years and *(c)* 67 to 68 years; and how much has been paid in winter fuel allowance to each such group in the latest period for which figures are available. [18661]

Steve Webb: Winter fuel payment recipients and expenditure for 2009-10 in the age categories requested are:

Age	*Recipients (thousand)*	*Expenditure (£ million)*
60-64	3,340	637
65-66	1,190	211
67-68	1,010	177

Notes:

1 Figures for recipients are rounded to the nearest 10,000 and expenditure figures are rounded to the nearest £ million.

2 Tables containing benefit expenditure by benefit, local authority and parliamentary constituency can be found at the following URL: http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/index.php?page=expenditure

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data.

Winter Fuel Payments: Livingston

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many individuals in Livingston constituency received the cold weather payment in 2009-10; [18633]

(2) what the total monetary value was of cold weather payments paid to recipients in Livingston constituency in 2009-10. [18634]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available. Data on Cold Weather Payments is not available by constituency, but only by weather station. In 2009-10, Livingston was linked to the weather station Edinburgh Gogarbank. This weather station triggered payments on 5 occasions and each eligible individual in Livingston constituency therefore received 5 Cold Weather Payments, each worth £25.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 26 October 2010

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Olympics: Sporting Legacy

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to secure a sporting legacy from the London 2012 Olympics. [18957]

Hugh Robertson: In partnership with the Department for Education, my Department will seek to reverse the decline in competitive sport in schools through the creation of an Olympic-style school sport competition, allowing children in schools across the country to experience the incredible inspiration of the Games.

In addition, London 2012 will deliver a new generation of sports facilities for the country and increase the exposure and sponsorship opportunities for all Olympic sports.

Following the comprehensive spending review, we have been able to protect elite athlete funding for London 2012 and the start of the Rio cycle, increase funding to our major sports events budget, preserve the Whole Sport Plans and intend to announce next month how we will deliver a community legacy from London 2012.

BBC: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date his Department first held discussions with the BBC on the transfer of responsibility for *(a)* free television licences for those aged over 75 and *(b)* BBC World Service. [19281]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The Government began discussions with the BBC about the new licence fee settlement on 12 October.

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions his Department has had with the BBC Trust on its estimate of savings required from the BBC budget consequent on *(a)* the six year TV licence fee freeze and *(b)* the transfer of responsibility for the World Service. [19283]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The BBC's new funding settlement will run from 2013-14 to 2016-17 and will be preceded by a freeze in the level of the licence fee at £145.50 in the remaining two years of the current settlement, 2011-12 and 2012-13. As part of the new settlement, the BBC will fund the BBC World Service from 2014-15 (not 2013-14, as incorrectly stated in paragraph 2.90 of the Treasury publication Spending Review 2010 [Cm 7942]).

The overall impact of the new settlement, which will continue to hold the level of the licence fee at £145.50, will require the BBC to achieve a 16% cash-releasing efficiency target, net of implementation costs, over the four years to 2016-17.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18746]

John Penrose: The table shows the number of days the Department lost to staff sickness and the estimated cost of sickness absence in each year since 2003.

The cost of sickness absence data prior to 2003 could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

	Total number of working days lost	*Cost of absence (£)*
2003-04	1,580	205,400
2004-05	1,577	205,010
2005-06	1,556	247,404
2006-07	1,449	241,983
2007-08	2,085	377,385
2008-09	1,944	346,032
2009-10	2,211	360,393

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he plans to reply to the letter of 6 September 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr B. Webb. [19863]

Hugh Robertson: I responded to the letter of 6 September 2010 about football governance from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on 29 September 2010.

The response was e-mailed directly to the parliamentary office of the right hon. Member.

Swimming: Concessions

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many people participated in free swimming for those under the age of 16 and over the age of 60 years; what the cost to the public purse was of those schemes; what estimate he made of the number of swimming sessions provided under the scheme; and whether he has made an estimate of the effect on the number of people who regularly swim of the ending of those schemes. [19304]

Hugh Robertson: Data on the number of free swims recorded by all 261 local authorities participating in the Free Swimming Programme are available on our website at:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/what_we_do/research_and_statistics/6274.aspx

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) was commissioned in April 2009 to undertake an independent evaluation of the Free Swimming Programme in England. It assessed:

> The impact of the Programme, specifically the extent to which it had increased the number of swims and the number of swimmers;
>
> The lessons learned, in particular evidence of what worked, how, in what context and for whom; and
>
> The benefits and value for money of the Programme, focusing on the health and consequent economic benefits of swimming participation.
>
> The report can be downloaded on the Department's website at:
>
> http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7190.aspx

A total of £25,951,788 from the £40 million resource funding allocated for 2010-11 has been saved by ending the Free Swimming Programme for the under 16s and over 60s.

An additional £25 million of capital funding allocated for the programme in 2010-11 has also been saved.

SCOTLAND

British Summer Time

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated in the last 20 years on the potential effects on Scotland of changes in the use of British Summer Time. [19803]

Michael Moore: In January 1996 the Scotland Office published the interim report 'The effect of introducing Single/Double Summer Time on road safety in Scotland.' The Scottish Office also collaborated with the Department of Transport in the joint commissioning of research undertaken by the Transport Research Laboratory to inform the report it published in October 1998, 'A new assessment of the likely effects on road accidents of adopting SDST.'

Devolution: Scotland

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent issues relating to the devolution settlement the Advocate-General has considered. [19144]

Michael Moore: The hon. Member asked a similar question of my right hon. Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland on 21 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 340.

Since 21 July the Advocate-General for Scotland has received a total of 1,149 minutes notifying him of devolution issues of which 1,144 relate to criminal matters and five to civil matters.

The Advocate-General, along with myself and colleagues, has also been working on preparations for the forthcoming Scotland Bill which will deliver our coalition commitment and strengthen the devolution settlement for Scotland.

Green Investment Bank

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what discussions he has had with the Scottish Executive on the creation of the Green Investment Bank; what estimate he has made of the proportion of the bank's funds which is likely to be spent in Scotland in the next comprehensive spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [19619]

Michael Moore: I have regular discussions with the Scottish Executive on a range of matters including on the Green Investment Bank. Of the allocated £1 billion UK-wide funding, £250 million will be made available for investment in green infrastructure in Scotland on the basis that the Scottish Executive agrees to the drawdown of funds from the Scottish Fossil Fuel Levy surplus. No further funding commitment has been made as yet, as the precise nature of the Green Investment Bank is subject to further design and testing work.

Public Finance

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent assessment has he made of the effect on public services in Scotland of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [19299]

Michael Moore: For Scotland, the spending review provides a fair deal in tough times. The Scottish Government's budget over the spending review period will fall by less than the UK average in real terms. It is for the Scottish Government to decide how to allocate its budget across the public services it controls. The UK Government will cut waste and has made tough choices in order to put public services and the welfare system on to a sustainable footing, while protecting the most vulnerable.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Education Service

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission if the House of Commons Commission will consider amending the objectives of the Parliamentary Education Service in line with recommendation 4 of the report of the Speaker's Conference on parliamentary representation. [19182]

Sir Stuart Bell: Recommendation 4 of the report of the Speaker's Conference on parliamentary representation recommended that the objectives of the Parliamentary Education Service should in future include encouraging a wider range of people to become candidates for election to Parliament.

The Management Board responded to this recommendation (in HC 449 2009-10) as follows:

> School children visiting Westminster reflect a cross-section of society, and thus represent a powerful opportunity to encourage broader engagement with Parliament. It is not an objective of Parliament's Education Service (or the Parliamentary Outreach service) explicitly to encourage people to stand as candidates, but rather to explain the party system and the representational role in the context of effective engagement with parliamentary processes.

There are no plans to amend the objectives beyond this, but attention is drawn to the high-quality resources available which contribute directly to raising awareness and understanding of the role of Members. "MP For a Week" is an award-winning online game which explores the role of Members and features MPs describing their work. Also now available is a new film "The General

Election Explained" which follows the fortunes of prospective candidates in a specific constituency through to the results of the 2010 election. Other activities such as the Youth Parliament are also aimed at improving the understanding and appreciation of the work of Members and thereby encouraging a diverse range of people to consider a future role as a parliamentarian.

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

House Business Committee

Mr Bone: To ask the Leader of the House what progress has been made on the establishment of a House Business Committee. [19297]

Sir George Young: The Government are committed to establishing a House Business Committee by the third year of this Parliament. The Backbench Business Committee has got off to a good start, and we shall seek its views on how the House Business Committee might operate.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Complaints

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 952-53W, on complaints, what criteria the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses to classify as an official complaint representations received *(a)* by correspondence and *(b)* by other means. [18421]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking pursuant to the Answer of 27 July 2010, Official Report, columns 952-53W, on complaints, what criteria the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority uses to classify as an official complaint representations received (a) by correspondence and (b) by other means. 18421

IPSA's complaints procedure is published on IPSA's website under "Publications". The procedure sets out the criteria. Any official complaints need to be submitted in writing in order for IPSA to be able fully to investigate the complaint and provide a comprehensive response to the complainant.

Members: Allowances

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, in respect of how many claims submitted by hon. Members and due for settlement in *(a)* April and *(b)* September 2010 the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has yet to make payment; what the reasons are for the time taken to make payment in such cases; and if he will make a statement. [17689]

Mr Charles Walker: The answer requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking in respect of how many claims submitted by hon. Members and due for settlement in (a) April and (b) September 2010 the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has yet to make payment; and what the reasons are for the time taken to make payment in such cases. (17689)

IPSA's expenses scheme came into force on 7 May 2010. No claims pre-dating 7 May therefore fall within IPSA's remit and no claims made before 7 May are therefore outstanding. It is for the House of Commons to reimburse expenditure prior to 7 May.

At present, 162 out of 5,256 claim forms submitted to us in September are still awaiting payment. In all cases this is because either the form has been completed incorrectly, or insufficient supporting evidence has been submitted or some other query has been raised with a Member.

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Churches: Grants

Miss McIntosh: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners what recent representations the Church Commissioners have made to the Government on heritage grants for churches; and if he will make a statement. [19409]

Tony Baldry: By way of a statement it is with great pleasure that I can confirm to the hon. Member that the DCMS has announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review, that the Listed Places of Worship Grant Scheme will survive beyond March 2011, albeit in the reduced form which was announced as an interim measure on 7 October. This is very good news for all those volunteers who look after our churches. This was, in part, the result of representations made to Department for Culture, Media and Sport and Treasury by the Bishop of London, the chair of the Church Buildings Council, and the Church of England Parliamentary Unit and others over the last few months.

From 4 January 2010, listed places of worship will not be able to recover VAT on professional fees for works and repair works to organs, bells, clocks, and pews, but they will still be able to claim for repairs to their buildings, up to a capped total of just over £12 million in 2011-12, rising to just over £13 million in 2014-15. However, from 4 January, the scheme will match up to the full VAT paid out on those items which remain eligible including the increase to 20%.

We also note with great disappointment following the Comprehensive Spending Review, that English Heritage's grant from Government will be cut by 32%, considerably more than the DCMS's overall cut of 25%. We have offered to work closely with English Heritage staff to try and ensure that the invaluable support that our churches have received from English Heritage both in the form of technical expertise and grant-aid will be maintained at its current high standard and level.

The National Lottery good causes review is welcomed warmly which we hope means that heritage, arts and sport will again each get the share of total proceeds originally set out when the Lottery was created in 1994—20%—amounting to an extra £50 million each every year. The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) has given great support to places of worship. Between April 1994 and March 2010, the HLF has awarded £390m to over 3,800 projects supporting over 3,200 individual places of worship. Altogether, HLF has awarded £519 million to 4,300 faith-related projects. We look forward to working with the Heritage Lottery Fund to look at ways that some of this extra money can be used to help those who look after our churches to maintain them and to open them up for the use of the wider community.

The Big Lottery Fund is launching a new Community Buildings Programme in later autumn 2010. This is building on the very successful Communities Buildings Programme run by the Big Lottery in 2008. The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division of the Church of England has been part of a stakeholders group made up of organisations that have responsibility for community buildings who have been consulted over the last few months on the aims and objectives of the programme as well as the criteria and application process. We have ensured that faith buildings that meet the criteria will be eligible under the programme.

The Cathedral and Church Buildings Division is also currently responding to a further DCMS consultation on the change to the direction of the Big Lottery. We welcome the proposal that the Big Lottery Fund should be directed to focus its funding on projects that benefit people and local communities in the voluntary and community sector, exactly the sort of projects that our churches are very experienced at running.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: North West

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many affordable homes were built in *(a)* Bury North constituency and *(b)* the North West in (i) 2007, (ii) 2008 and (iii) 2009. [19247]

Andrew Stunell: The available information which is for Bury local authority and the north-west Government region is provided in the following table.

The Department's 'Affordable Housing in England' Statistical Release, containing information for 2009-10 will be published on 28 October.

Not all affordable housing is provided through new-build completions as supply can also come from the acquisition and refurbishment of private sector homes. For example, in the most recent period available, 2008-09, a total of 4,140 affordable homes were provided in the north-west Government region, of which 50 were in Bury.

New-build affordable housing completions

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Bury	20	30	30
North West	2,230	3,220	3,120

Note:
Data are rounded to nearest 10 homes.
Source:
Homes and Communities Agency and local authorities

Aldermaston AWE: Fires

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what reports he has received on the support provided to the Ministry of Defence Fire Service by local fire services during the fire at Aldermaston Atomic Weapons Establishment in August 2010. [19604]

Robert Neill: Royal Berkshire Fire and Rescue Service has confirmed that information on the support provided by local authority fire and rescue services at this incident will be transmitted to the Department using the standard Incident Recording System.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations he has received from *(a)* hon. Members, *(b)* Members of the House of Lords, *(c)* representative organisations and *(d)* members of the public on the incidence of anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [17383]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government regularly receives representations from hon. Members, representative organisations and members of the public of incidences of anti-Semitism and through the cross-Government working group regularly meets representatives of the CST, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the Jewish Leadership Council. Recently I visited the Community Security Trust offices to discuss how the CST monitors incidents of anti-Semitism.

Council Housing: Rents

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what definition of market rent his Department uses in respect of the proposal to raise the rents of new council tenants to 80 per cent. of market rent. [19602]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the implementation of new 'affordable rent' tenure shortly.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18739]

Robert Neill: The following table shows the figures for the number of staff in DCLG who have been subject to disciplinary action for each year since the establishment of DCLG in May 2006.

	Number of staff subject to disciplinary action
2006-07	0
2007-08	<5
2008-09	5
2009-10	16
2010-11	8

Note:
Data from 5 May 2006 to 21 October 2010 (financial years).

DCLG does not hold a central record of the number of staff who have been removed from post.

DCLG does not hold a central record of the number of staff who have been transferred to another position for any reason.

The number of staff who have been dismissed for matters relating to their disciplinary record since May 2006 is less than five.

No DCLG staff have been dismissed for matters relating to their performance.

Departmental Per Capita Costs

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he made of his Department's capital spending per head in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years; [19037]

(2) how much and what proportion of his Department's capital spending was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [19038]

Robert Neill: The Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses published in July this year by HM Treasury at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/d/pesa_2010_chapter9.pdf

show central Government expenditure on services by country and Government office region for the last five financial year.

The following tables set out the data requested for London and the north-west.

Capital spending by the Department per head

£ per head

Government office region	*2005-06 (outturn)*	*2006-07 (outturn)*	*2007-08 (outturn)*	*2008-09 (outturn)*	*2009-10 (plans)*
London	100	132	138	174	256
North West	53	46	54	66	93

Capital spending by the Department

£ million

Government office region	*2005-06 (outturn)*	*2006-07 (outturn)*	*2007-08 (outturn)*	*2008-09 (outturn)*	*2009-10 (plans)*
London	744.91	989.04	1042.35	1326.45	1962.34
North West	362.69	313.04	370.57	456.97	643.48

The outturn figures for 2009-10 will be updated at the next publication in 2011.

Empty Property: East of England

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* privately-owned and *(b)* social sector homes in (i) St Albans and (ii) the East of England were vacant in each of the last 12 quarters for which figures are available; and how many of those homes had been vacant for more than six months. [19668]

Robert Neill: The following tables show the total number and proportion of dwellings that were vacant (i) for any length of time and (ii) for more than six months in St Albans city and district council area and the East of England statistical region in each of the last three years. Separate figures are included for local authority-owned and registered social landlord (RSL) dwellings. Comparable information on the number of private sector vacant dwellings is not held centrally.

Figures for RSLs include 'general needs' self-contained stock and exclude bed spaces, 'supported housing' and 'housing for older people', for which vacancy estimates are not available below the England level. 'General needs' self-contained stock accounts for approximately 80% of the RSL sector in England.

2007

		All tenures		*Local authority*[1]		*Registered social landlords*[2]	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
St Albans	All vacants	1,446	2.6	37	0.7	20	1.4
	Vacant for >6 months	407	0.7	5	0.1	8	0.5
East of England	All vacants	69,107	2.8	2,492	1.3	1,836	1.2
	Vacant for >6 months	24,704	1.0	698	0.4	1,010	0.6

2008

		All tenures		*Local authority*[1]		*Registered social landlords*[2]	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
St Albans	All vacants	1,348	2.4	91	1.7	15	1.0
	Vacant for >6 months	451	0.8	44	0.8	7	0.5
East of England	All vacants	72,773	3.0	2,040	1.3	1,888	1.0
	Vacant for >6 months	26,255	1.1	689	0.4	1,224	0.7

2009

		All tenures		*Local authority*[1]		*Registered social landlord*[2] [3]	
		Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
St Albans	All vacants	1,317	2.3	120	2.3	45	2.8
	Vacant for >6 months	373	0.7	71	1.4	35	2.2
East of England	All vacants	72,891	2.9	2,595	1.6	2,137	1.2
	Vacant for 6 >months	25,921	1.0	685	0.4	1,342	0.7

[1] These figures relate to stock owned by a local authority regardless of whether it is located within that local authority's boundaries.

[2] 'General needs' self-contained RSL stock only.

[3] RSL vacancies of more than six montns are based on a proxy measure—"RSL vacancies not available for rent".

Sources:

All tenures—CTBI council tax form (completed by local authorities). local authority tenure—Business Planning Statistical Appendix (completed by local authorities). RSL tenure—Regulatory and Statistical Return (completed by RSLs).

Fire Services: Foreign Nationals

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what advice his Department issues to fire control centres on assistance to those whose first language is not English who are reporting a fire. [19605]

Robert Neill: There is a legal requirement for all Fire and Rescue Authorities to make the necessary arrangements to ensure their services are delivered equitably, taking into account the varying needs in their community.

Floods

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has considered the merits of introducing a statutory requirement for making emergency planning arrangements for flooding. [18595]

Richard Benyon: I have been asked to reply.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, in following the recommendation by Sir Michael Pitt in his Review of the 2007 floods, has worked to enhance the national capability for flood emergency response in conjunction with the main first responders to such events, including the Fire and Rescue Services.

While the Pitt Review is not categorical about the issue of statutory duty, the idea has not been ruled out. On its completion, the Flood Rescue National Enhancement Project will provide us with the means of assessing what shortfalls exist in our national capability, and also what statutory underpinning is needed, if any.

Housing Benefit: Landlords

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department provides support for landlords dealing with tenants in receipt of rent allowance who fail to pay their rent. [19007]

Andrew Stunell: Payment of housing benefit can be made directly to landlords where there are rent arrears and landlords should approach their local authority in these circumstances. The issue of housing benefit being paid directly to tenants is being looked at as part of the Department for Work and Pensions review of the first two years' operation of the local housing allowance. The review is due to report by the end of the year. Landlords have powers to seek possession through the courts on the grounds of non-payment of rent.

Housing: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what proportion of homes in St Albans were *(a)* owner-occupied, *(b)* privately rented and *(c)* in the social rented sector in the latest period for which figures are available. [19665]

Andrew Stunell: The number of dwellings in St Albans city and district council area in 2009 is shown in the following table, split by tenure. Figures for the privately rented and owner-occupied tenures are not held centrally.

St Albans	*Local authority*	*Registered social landlord*[1]	*Other public sector*	*Private sector*	*Total*
Number of units	5,222	1,979	164	49,283	56,648
Percentage of total	9	3	—	87	100

Sources:

Local authority and other public sector reports as at 1 April 2009 by local authorities through the Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix; includes non-permanent dwellings.

Registered Social Landlord figures as at 31 March 2009 collected in the Regulatory and Statistical Return.

Total stock estimates from 2001: census dwelling count as a baseline and subsequent changes to the dwelling stock from the Housing Flows Reconciliation form.

Private stock is calculated by the residual.

[1] Includes 'general needs' stock, 'supported housing' and 'housing for older people', both self-contained and bedspaces.

Housing: Sustainable Development

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 371W, on housing: sustainable development, what timetable he has set for the review of the future role of the Code for Sustainable Homes. [19034]

Andrew Stunell: The Government's plans to review the future role of the code are currently being considered, along with a wider rationalisation of housing standards following a consultation which focused on streamlining and simplifying the code, resolving problems which have arisen during its use, and upgrading it to align with revisions to part L of the Building Regulations. A further announcement about the way forward will be made soon.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18736]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements. The Department takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations; an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Local Government: Publicity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Health the merits of broadening the scope of his consultation on the Local Authority Publicity Code to include NHS bodies. [19486]

Robert Neill: The Local Government Act 1986 provides that the Code of Recommended Practice on Local Authority Publicity is a statutory code applicable to local authorities.

We are currently consulting on a proposed new code containing provisions to stop unfair competition by local authority publications and lobbying at the taxpayer's expense. It will be for my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Health to decide if similar measures are needed for NHS bodies and, if so, how to achieve them.

Mayors: Referendums

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will reduce the threshold for calling a local referendum on elected mayors from five per cent. to two per cent. [15348]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* The Government's approach to promoting more elected mayors will be outlined shortly in the Localism Bill.

Minerals: Planning Permission

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review the effectiveness of the targets for strategic minerals planning. [19581]

Robert Neill: My Department publishes at intervals guidelines to inform the provision of aggregate minerals in England through the planning system. My Department monitors and reviews the implementation and operation of the guidelines in consultation with key partners. When we revoked regional strategies on 6 July we made it clear that mineral planning authorities have responsibility for continuing to plan for a steady and adequate supply of aggregate minerals to support economic growth. We also indicated that we would work with the minerals industry and local government to agree how minerals planning arrangements should operate in the longer term.

Parish Councils

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to encourage district councils to take into account the views of parish councils and parish meetings in making decisions at a local level. [18933]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to a localism agenda where decisions are taken at the most appropriate local level, and expect all tiers of local government to work together constructively for the benefit of local communities. We expect our localism policies, such as our commitment to reform the planning system to give neighbourhoods far more ability to determine the shape of the places in which their inhabitants live, will provide real opportunities for an increased role for parish councils and parish meetings. Our forthcoming Localism Bill will make provision for such measures.

Social Rented Housing: North West

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the proportion of social homes in *(a)* Bury North constituency and *(b)* the North West which meet the criteria of the decent homes standard; and whether he plans to increase the number of decent homes in (i) Bury North constituency and (ii) the North West. [19246]

Andrew Stunell: The available data apply to the district of Bury. The proportion of social homes in Bury which meet the decent homes standard at April 2010 is 97%; and the proportion of social homes in the North West which meet the decent homes standard is 91%.

In the spending review, the Government announced that they will spend £2.1 billion tackling non-decent social homes over the next four years. The Homes and Communities Agency will be consulting local authorities on the process for allocating capital funding shortly.

South East England Regional Assembly

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the savings accruing to the public purse from the abolition of the South East England Regional Assembly. [19086]

Robert Neill: The South East England Regional Assembly ceased to exist on 1 April 2009 and its responsibilities passed to the South East England Leaders Board.

In June 2010 we announced the end of central Government funding for regional leaders' boards, saving £1.4 million in 2010-11 and £2.8 million in subsequent years. There will also be the potential for savings to local authorities from the abolition of the regional planning bodies.

Squatting

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the number of properties occupied by squatters. [19614]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of properties occupied by squatters is not held centrally.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Standards

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which bus operators serving Northamptonshire and Oxfordshire have been fined by the Traffic Commissioners for poor performance in the last 12 months; and what proportion of those fines have been paid to date. [19051]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 22 October 2010]:* No operator of local bus services serving Northamptonshire or Oxfordshire have had a penalty under Section 155 of the Transport Act 2000 imposed upon them by the Traffic Commissioner for poor performance in the last 12 months.

Bus Services: Visual Impairment

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* increase the level of accessibility of public transport for those with visual impairment and *(b)* assist such people with access to information on timetables, changes of routes and discontinued services. [19244]

Norman Baker: The Department recognises the importance of helping disabled people, including those with visual impairments, to travel on public transport more confidently and independently. We are taking a number of steps to ensure that levels of accessibility continue to improve on public transport.

The Public Service Vehicles Accessibility Regulations 2000 (PSVAR) as amended require buses to have accessibility facilities such as low floor boarding devices, visual contrast on step edges, handholds and handrails among others. Such improvements on buses are continuing, with all vehicles used on local or scheduled services required to be fully PSVAR compliant by 2015, 2016 or 2017, depending on the type of vehicle. All rail vehicles are required to meet modern standards by 2020.

Currently, 62% of buses and 45% of heavy rail comply with the regulations.

A large number of stations being funded from the Access for All Programme to make accessibility improvements will continue to have direct benefit to visually impaired passengers.

Audio-visual passenger information systems can be a key source of information to many disabled passengers. Such systems are already available on trains. On buses, however, the levels of provision vary outside London. The Department is therefore undertaking a project to consider ways of increasing the uptake of audio-visual systems. The project is due to report shortly.

We are currently working to improve the accessibility information available to the public; the Transport Direct journey planner enables disabled people and people of reduced mobility to plan their journeys and will do so, for example, during the Olympic games. The Department also continues to work with the Association of Train Operating Companies to improve the Assisted Passenger Reservation Service for queries from disabled people on facilities and booking journey assistance.

For those who are not confident using public transport, the Department champions increased levels of travel training by local authorities, and is aiming to produce a website of good practice by the end of 2010.

In addition, we are working with industry to ensure that the training of transport staff continues to improve, as they are an obvious first point of contact for disabled people. To further this, we are extending the Certificate for Professional Competence (CPC) for driver training to include a disability module.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18577]

Norman Baker: The central Department and its agencies recorded the following in respect of staff sickness absence during the 2009-10 financial year:

Staff sickness: 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010

Grade	*Average working days lost*
AA	10.1
AO	8.6
EO	9.7
HEO	6.2
SEO	4.2
G7	3.9
G6	3.9
SCS	5.3
Average working days lost per staff year	8.2
Total staff employed in period	20,663

These figures are calculated according to guidance provided by the Cabinet Office, to whom we report on a quarterly basis and update our results on the Departmental external website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/staff/sickabsence

Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much revenue the Driver Vehicle and Licensing Agency has received from the auction of personalised registration plates in the last 12 months. [19683]

Mike Penning: The revenue received from the Sale of Marks scheme for 2009-10, as published in the Agency's Annual Report and Accounts, is £82,031,000.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duties

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will review the level of road tax payable on four wheel drive vehicles used by disabled drivers or their carers for the purpose of bringing forward proposals to reduce or remove road tax liability in respect of such drivers. [19043]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Existing rates of vehicle excise duty were set and legislated for by the previous Government. The Chancellor keeps all taxes under review and vehicle excise duty will be considered along normal Budget timelines.

Railways: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding his Department allocated to each train operating company in each of the last 10 years. [18370]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 20 October 2010]*: The net total funding allocated to franchised train operating companies in 2009-10 was £27.7 million. This is the last full year for which figures are available. A detailed breakdown by train operating company is in the following table.

Government subsidy by train operating company is published annually by the Office of Rail Regulation in the National Rail Trends Yearbook. Data for the year 2005-06 to 2008-09 are available at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1528

Data for the year 2000-01 to 2004-05 are available at:

http://www.rail-reg.gov.uk/server/show/nav.1542

2009-10 Net subsidy by train operating company

	£ million
Active TOCS	
Arriva Trains Cross Country	65.5
Arriva Trains Wales/Trenau Arriva Cymru Ltd[1]	-23.5
c2c Rail Ltd	-3.3
East Coast	-46.1
East Midlands Trains Ltd	10.0
First Capital Connect	-89.1
First Greater Western Ltd	-2.9
London and South Eastern Railway Ltd (Southeastern)	122.8
London Midland	102.4
National Express East Anglia	-97.4
Northern Rail Ltd	106.4
Southern (New Central)	48.0
Stagecoach South Western Trains Ltd	-137.7
The Chiltern Railway Company Ltd	8.8
Trans Pennine Express	78.4
Virgin West Coast	50.0
Inactive TOCs at 31 March 2010	
Central Trains	-2.2
Centro	0.4
CrossCountry Trains Ltd[2]	—
First ScotRail Ltd[1]	—
FNW	0.1
Gatwick Express Ltd[3]	—
GNER	-6.6
National Express East Coast	-144.5
New Southern Railway Ltd	—
Silverlink	-0.7
Southern	-11.5
Virgin Cross Country	0.4
West Coast Trains Ltd	—
All operators	27.7

+ve = net payments
-ve = net receipts

[1] 2007-08 subsidy data for Arriva Trains Wales and First Scotrail have been updated to 127.4 and 252.5 respectively following updated figures from the Welsh Assembly and Transport Scotland.

[2] Includes Virgin and Arriva.

[3] 2008-09 data for Gatwick Express have been omitted as New Southern Railway Ltd began operating the service in June 2008.

Roads: Accidents

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* deaths and *(b)* serious injuries have occurred on roads in the London borough of Bexley in each of the last five years. [19535]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reported fatalities and serious injuries in road accidents in the London borough of Bexley, 2005-09

					Number
Casualty severity	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Killed	6	6	6	0	5
Seriously injured	81	97	99	73	77

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure effective co-ordination between the Highways Agency and local authorities on their respective programmes of road repairs and maintenance. [19089]

Mike Penning: The New Roads and Street Works Act (NRSWA) 1991 and the Traffic Management Act (TMA) 2004 together oblige local highway authorities (LHA) to ensure repair and maintenance works are co-ordinated and planned to ensure the expeditious movement of traffic. The Highways Agency has been given an equivalent remit by the Secretary of State to manage better its existing network and to reduce the impact of congestion and congestion related delays.

Quarterly co-ordination meetings are held between representatives from LHA, the Agency and statutory undertakers (major utility companies) to discuss future programmes of work. This enables conflicts to be highlighted and whenever possible the duration, sequencing or timing to be adjusted to minimise the impact.

Speed Limits: Cameras

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fixed speed cameras there are in Bury North constituency; how much income was generated from fines levied as a result of evidence from those cameras; and to what projects and programmes that income was allocated. [19245]

Mike Penning: The Department holds only information about speed cameras operating under the National Safety Camera Programme, which started in 2001 and ended on 31 March 2007. Separate information about cameras operating in Bury North is not held. The number of camera sites operating at the end of the National Safety Camera Programme in Greater Manchester (which includes the Bury North area) was 108. During the lifetime of the programme these cameras generated £12,960,120—a portion of this was hypothecated to cover operating and administration costs, the surplus was passed to the Treasury Consolidated Fund. The number of cameras currently in place and income generated is a matter for the Greater Manchester road safety partnership.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to transpose into UK law the classification of Chrysotile under EU Directive 97/69/EC as not requiring treatment as a carcinogen. [16564]

Chris Grayling: The relevant provisions originally in Directive 97/69/EC (and subsequently transferred to the direct-acting EU Regulation on Classification Labelling and Packaging EC 1272/2008 (CLP)) applied to man-made mineral fibres such as mineral wools and not to chrysotile asbestos. The classification of asbestos, including chrysotile asbestos is included in CLP. Such EU regulations apply directly in all member states and do not require transposition into domestic law. Directive 97/69/EC no longer has legal effect.

There is, at present, international scientific consensus on the classification of asbestos as carcinogenic, which informs Government policy. We will keep this under review and until the consensus changes, the Secretary of State has no plans to amend the regulations.

Departmental Asbestos

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to amend existing regulations governing the safe use of asbestos cement in line with the evidence cited in Health and Safety Commission Paper HSC/06/55. [18118]

Chris Grayling: The Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006 implement the European Codified Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work. Asbestos cement products are subject to that directive. All asbestos types found in asbestos cement are classified by the European Chemicals Agency as category 1 human carcinogens. There is, at present, international scientific consensus on the classification of asbestos which informs Government policy. We will keep this under review and until the consensus changes, the Secretary of State has no plans to amend the regulations.

The current regulatory approach is consistent with the evidence set out in the Health and Safety Commission paper.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18715]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Work and Pensions records action that has been taken because of misconduct or unsatisfactory performance. The figures show the number of staff disciplined, downgraded, and dismissed.

Transferring staff compulsorily from their post is a sanction that is only available in misconduct cases.

The information is provided in the following tables:

Discipline action—misconduct

	Number of employees			
	Disciplined	*Downgraded*	*Compulsory transferred as a sanction*	*Dismissed*
1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010	541	1	2	91
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	1,484	6	4	355

Discipline action—misconduct

	Number of employees:			
	Disciplined	*Downgraded*	*Compulsory transferred as a sanction*	*Dismissed*
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	1,093	2	4	219
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	867	0	3	161
Total	3,985	9	13	826

Discipline action—unsatisfactory performance

	Number of employees:		
	Disciplined	*Downgraded*	*Dismissed*
1 April 2010 to 30 June 2010	50	0	15
1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010	137	5	27
1 April 2008 to 31 March 2009	75	1	15
1 April 2007 to 31 March 2008	101	1	15
Total	363	7	72

Employment and Support Allowance: Blaenau Gwent

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Blaenau Gwent constituency receive *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit. [19292]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Employment support allowance (ESA) and incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance (IB/SDA) claimants in Blaenau Gwent parliamentary constituency at February 2010

	Claimants
ESA	980
IB/SDA	5,380

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008. It is not possible to receive IBSDA and ESA at the same time.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
4. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Incapacity Benefit: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in Brighton, Kemptown constituency are in receipt of incapacity benefit; and what the equivalent figure was in each of the last 10 years. [19009]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance claimants in the Brighton Kemptown parliamentary constituency, in each of the last 10 years

Date (February each year)	*Brighton, Kemptown*
2000	4,450
2001	4,520
2002	4,550
2003	4,690
2004	4,710
2005	4,670
2006	4,720
2007	4,800
2008	4,850
2009	4,660
2010	4,350

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
2. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
3. IB/SDA 'claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, i.e. 'credits only cases'.
4. Constituencies used for February 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this, the constituencies used are for May 2005.
5. Figures do not include ESA claimants.
6. Data are published at

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/index.php?page=tabtool

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data

Members: Correspondence

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to reply to the letter of 14 June 2010 from the hon. Member for Oldham East and Saddleworth to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary at the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, transferred to his Department on 23 June 2010, regarding Mr Peter Brown. [19145]

Chris Grayling: A reply was sent to the hon. Member on 7 July 2010.

Occupational Pensions: Public Consultation

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what questions will be included in his Department's proposed consultation on provisions for occupational pension schemes switching from uprating by the retail price index to the consumer price index; and what timetable he has set for that consultation. [19305]

Steve Webb: A consultation paper setting out the Government's position will be published shortly.

It would be inappropriate to disclose the contents of the paper in advance of publication.

Older Workers

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on employers' attitudes to employing older workers. [19468]

Chris Grayling: There are five separate research reports commissioned and published by DWP in the last five years, as part of their Research Report Series, which evaluate employers' attitudes towards employing older workers. These can be found on the DWP website:

http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd5/rrs-index.asp

"Survey of employers' policies, practices and preferences relating to age", 2006 (DWP Research Report Series 325) H Metcalf with P Meadows.

"Employer responses to an ageing workforce: a qualitative study", 2006 (DWP Research Report Series 255) S McNair, M Flynn and N Dutton.

"Review of the Default Retirement Age: Summary of the stakeholder evidence", 2010 (DWP Research report Series 675) W Sykes, N Coleman and C Groom

"Second survey of employers' policies, practices and preferences relating to age", 2010 (DWP Research Report Series 682) H Metcalf and P Meadows.

"Default Retirement Age: Employer qualitative research", 2010 (DWP Research Report Series 672) A Thomas and J Pascall-Calitz.

Remploy

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects his review of the role of Remploy Ltd to be concluded. [19272]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: The review of Remploy Ltd was in connection with its status as a non-departmental public body. In the light of the spending review settlement I can confirm that the budget for Remploy Ltd remains unchanged. Remploy continues to be part of the Government's programme of support to help severely disabled people into work.

The status of Remploy as an NDPB also remains unchanged. I do, however, want to look at how we ensure continued improvements in the service provided by Remploy to disabled people. I will continue to work closely with Remploy and other key stakeholders in order to achieve this.

Retirement: Age

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the *(a)* number of people in the workforce and *(b)* level of expenditure on unemployment and welfare benefits of the implementation of the proposed increase in the state pension age; [19465]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on people in each social and income group of the implementation of the proposed increase in the state pension age. [19466]

Steve Webb: The Government's full response to the review of the state pension age, which will include an impact assessment and an equality impact assessment, will be published shortly. Copies will be placed in the Library of the House.

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the merits of taking steps to *(a)* help people to stay in work longer and *(b)* assist those aged between 50 and 59 years to adjust to the implementation of the proposed increase in the state pension age. [19467]

Steve Webb: People are living longer and healthier lives. Helping them to stay in work longer offers benefits to the economy, businesses and individuals themselves. Extending working life by one effective year could increase GDP by up to 1% (worth £13 billion). A single man who works a year beyond the current state pension age could increase his income in retirement by between 3 and 10%. Our Age Positive initiative is therefore working with business lead organisations to provide employers with guidance on the benefits of employing older workers and offering flexible approaches to work and phased retirement. Many people over 65 still want to work and can provide a valuable contribution by doing so.

Additionally, we have consulted jointly with the Department for Business Innovation and Skills on the phasing out of the Default Retirement Age (DRA), which prevents some people from working for longer. The DRA consultation ended 21 October, with results due to be published late autumn. The Government's full response to the review of state pension age will be published shortly.

Sickness Benefits: Migraine

Mr Leech: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of people unable to work due to severe migraines and in receipt of sickness benefit who were declared fit to work after having their cases reviewed *(a)* in Manchester and *(b)* nationally in each of the last 10 years. [19461]

Chris Grayling: Figures on the result of the functional assessment are available for people who made a claim for employment and support allowance (ESA) which was introduced in October 2008. Equivalent historical figures for incapacity benefit claimants are not available.

Nationally, between October 2008 and November 2009 1,000 claims were made for ESA where the condition recorded at the start of the claim was migraine (ICD10 code G43). The result of the initial assessment for these people was as follows:

Support Group: 20

Work Related Activity Group (WRAG): 140

Fit For Work: 490

Left ESA before completing assessment: 330

Assessment in progress: 30.

Social Security Benefits

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to reduce the incidence of welfare dependency. [19010]

Chris Grayling: The Government are committed to fighting poverty; supporting the most vulnerable; and helping people break the cycle of benefit dependency that has blighted some communities.

We are developing a new back to work model that gives Jobcentre Plus managers and advisers the maximum flexibility to work with customers to give them the best available support. We are also simplifying the whole system by replacing an array of existing employment schemes, pilots and projects with one new Work Programme that is more capable of dealing with complex and overlapping barriers to work.

The Work Programme will be an integrated package of support providing personalised help. It will support a wide range of customers—from Jobseeker's Allowance recipients who have been out of work for some time, to customers who may previously have been receiving incapacity benefits for many years. The Government aim to introduce the Work Programme by summer 2011.

In addition we have announced plans for a universal credit which will merge out-of-work benefits with in-work tax credits and housing benefit into a single system. The universal credit will improve incentives to work, especially for low earners, by a combination of earnings disregards and a single withdrawal rate when earnings exceed the disregard. This will make it easy for people to see that it is always worth going to work. We expect significant numbers of people to move into work as a result. Further details will be set out in a White Paper to be published in the next few weeks.

Social Security Benefits: Widowed People

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to change entitlement for widowed parents allowance consequent on the proposed changes to child benefit; and if he will make a statement. [18386]

Steve Webb: We intend that entitlement to widowed parent's allowance is unaffected by changes to child benefit.

Television: Licensing

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the BBC on future funding of free television licences for those over the age of 75 years; and if he will make a statement. [18996]

Steve Webb: The Government and the BBC discussed a range of options in the context of the new funding settlement for the BBC.

Welfare State: Reform

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects of the proposed reforms to the benefits system on the disadvantaged and vulnerable in Northern Ireland; and if he will make a statement. [17049]

Chris Grayling: These are matters which are largely devolved to Northern Ireland Ministers. Section 87 of the Northern Ireland Act 1998 provides for the securing of a single system of social security for Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Executive Ministers discuss these matters with ministerial colleagues and me as part of the regular exchanges that Whitehall Ministers have with their Northern Ireland counterparts. The proposed reforms will be an important part of these discussions.

Work Capability Assessment

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what changes have been made to the work capability assessment since his appointment. [19662]

Chris Grayling: No changes have been made to the work capability assessment since my appointment. The Department carried out a review of the WCA which reported in March 2010, and the Government have agreed to take forward the recommendations of that review. These changes will be introduced in spring 2011. We have also commissioned an independent review of the WCA, which is being carried out by Professor Harrington. We look forward to receiving his report later this year and will give careful consideration to his recommendations.

DEFENCE

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many missions the MQ-9 Reaper has flown in Afghanistan since May 2008; and how many of those missions involved the release of each type of weapon. [18015]

Dr Fox: The primary role of the UK Reaper Remotely Piloted Air System is intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance. Since October 2007, it has flown 1,344 sorties and since May 2008 employed 36 laser guided bombs and 84 Hellfire missiles in support of UK and coalition forces in Afghanistan.

Air Forces Crosses

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Air Forces Crosses have been awarded in each of the last three years. [19682]

Mr Robathan: Nine Air Force Crosses have been awarded over the last three years:

	Number
2007	3
2008	1
2009	4
2010	[1]1

[1] As of 22 October 2010.

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he expects both Queen Elizabeth-class carriers to be fitted with a catapult and arrester; [19374]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of fitting a Queen Elizabeth-class carrier with a catapult and arrester. [19378]

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) when he expects Queen Elizabeth-class carriers to be fitted with a catapult and arrester; [19390]

(2) which organisation he expects to fit the Queen Elizabeth-class carriers with a catapult and arrester. [19391]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he expects HMS Queen Elizabeth to be fitted with an electro-magnetic catapult system; [19723]

(2) what catapult and trap designs are being considered for the Queen Elizabeth class aircraft carriers; and what aircraft are capable of using each such design. [19730]

Peter Luff: As announced on 19 October 2010, we plan to deliver the carrier strike capability from around 2020 with the carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter and Queen Elizabeth class carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear. We are investigating the optimum means of achieving this outcome, working with industry and our international partners. No decisions have been taken as to the type of system, delivery dates or procurement route, or whether both carriers will be converted.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology he plans to use to reach a decision on whether to decommission HMS Ocean or HMS Illustrious. [19377]

Peter Luff: We will reach our decision by determining which of HMS Illustrious or HMS Ocean delivers the landing platform helicopter capability most cost-effectively.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Aldermaston

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he plans to review and update the ten-year site-wide 2000 Decommissioning Plan for the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston. [19135]

Peter Luff: The 10-year 2000 Decommissioning Plan was reviewed and refreshed by two quinquennial reviews of the Atomic Weapons Establishment's nuclear liabilities at both the Aldermaston and Burghfield sites. The next quinquennial review is currently planned to be undertaken in 2012. I understand that the review of the 2007 quinquennial review will be plublished on the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate website soon once it is completed.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the merits of NATO's proposal for an anti-ballistic missile shield. [18527]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The Government assess NATO ballistic missile defence to be an important capability which could contribute to the defence of the UK and our NATO allies against potential future ballistic missile threats. As stated in the strategic defence and security review, published 19 October 2010, we intend to support proposals to expand NATO's ballistic missile defence role.

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18628]

Peter Luff: There are 21 contracts listed in the Ministry of Defence's Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) contracts database, with the total payments of £8,170,414 for financial year 2010-11 to date, as shown in the following table:

Contractor name	*Pay in FY 2010-11 (£)*
The Capita Group plc	0
Capita Business Services Ltd.	23,260
Symonds Group Ltd.	10,703
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	83,564
Capita Health Solutions Ltd.	0
Capita Symonds Ltd.	14,300
Capita Symonds Ltd.	0
Capita Resourcing Ltd.	6,320,949
Capita Symonds Ltd.	107,287
Capita Symonds Ltd.	0
Symonds Group Ltd.	7,619
Symonds Group Ltd.	0
Capita Symonds Ltd.	283,580
Symonds Group Ltd.	0
Symonds Group Ltd.	0
Capita Group Companies (six miscellaneous contracts)	1,319,151
Total	8,170,414

Note:

Where a 0 appears in the pay column no payments have yet been made against these specific contracts.

Departmental Travel

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department spent on travel by officials *(a)* in the UK, *(b)* overseas and *(c)* between the UK and abroad in each of the last 12 months for which figures are available. [17672]

Mr Robathan: This information is not held in the form requested as we do not routinely distinguish between UK and overseas travel expenditure and, in some expenditure areas, between travel by officials and travel by their military colleagues.

We do, however, hold information on rail and air tickets booked centrally for officials and on travel expenses reimbursed to them for accommodation, subsistence, taxi, bus and underground fares, parking charges, road tolls, rail and air fares not booked centrally and use of their own vehicle for duty journeys. Such expenditure has been as follows in each of the past 12 months:

	Expenditure (£ million)
2009	
September	5.3
October	5.6
November	5.1
December	3.2
2010	
January	3.0
February	3.8
March	5.2
April	3.3
May	3.6
June	4.1
July	4.0
August	3.1

We publish the business expenses incurred by our most senior officials quarterly, at the following website:

http://www.mod.uk/DefenceInternet/AboutDefence/CorporatePublications/FinancialReports/Expenses/SeniorStaffBusinessExpenses.htm

Etal Group

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions his Department has *(a)* terminated a contract with and *(b)* considered a bid for a contract from Etal Ltd. of Dundee since his appointment; and to whom his Department has awarded contracts since his appointment. [18078]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's (MOD) Financial Management Shared Service Centre (FMSSC) contracts database does not show any contracts as having been placed with Etal Ltd. during the last three financial years. Information on potential bidders for MOD contracts is not held centrally and could be produced only at disproportionate cost.

The MOD has placed some 2,200 new contracts since the Secretary of State's appointment on 12 May 2010.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr Wallace: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's 2004 report on marinisation of Typhoon aircraft. [16709]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has no record of a 2004 report on marinisation of Typhoon aircraft. We have commissioned industrial and technical advice during the review of the future carrier-borne aircraft requirement, which also considered the adaptation of existing aircraft, including Typhoon. The Joint Strike Fighter was selected to fulfil this role. We have periodically reviewed with industry our present and future Typhoon capability requirements from a technological, industrial and commercial perspective and will continue to do so throughout the life of the aircraft.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service date is for the A400M aircraft. [19553]

Peter Luff: The current forecast in-service date for the A400M aircraft is March 2015, as published in the Major Projects Report 2010.

Germany: Military Bases

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who owns the land on which British bases are located in Germany. [19140]

Mr Robathan: The majority of the land on which British bases are located in Germany is owned by the German Federal Government. The remainder is leased by the German Federal Government on behalf of the British Forces.

Gibraltar: Military Bases

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence who owns the land on which British bases are located in Gibraltar. [19139]

Mr Robathan: The land on which British bases are located in Gibraltar is owned by the Crown.

Members: Correspondence

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the Veterans Minister plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Ochil and South Perthshire of 3 July and 23 September 2010, on a constituency case. [19722]

Mr Robathan: The Under-Secretary of State for Defence, my hon. Friend the Member for South Leicestershire (Mr Robathan) is currently overseas on business and I am responding on his behalf. He replied to the letter of 3 July 2010 advising that he needs to familiarise himself with the matter and had asked officials for the full background. He said he hoped to be able to offer a considered response by the end of August. We apologise for not yet being in a position to respond on this complex case, but the hon. Member will receive a reply shortly.

Nuclear Fuels: Storage

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what date rim-sealed containers for storage of special nuclear materials at the Atomic Weapons Establishment at Aldermaston will be replaced by new, long-term storage containers. [19133]

Peter Luff: There are no current plans to replace "rim-sealed" containers used for storage of special nuclear materials at the Atomic Weapons Establishment.

Nuclear Weapons

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish a full historical inventory of the UK's nuclear arsenal. [19138]

Dr Fox: We have no plans to publish an historical inventory of the UK's nuclear arsenal.

RAF Chivenor: Rescue Services

Mr Cox: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will ensure that the Helicopter Search and Rescue Service based at RAF Chivenor retains 24 hours a day cover. [18509]

Peter Luff: On 17 June 2010 the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced a review of the approval of the search and rescue helicopters project in the context of the wider pressures on public spending. Until this review is complete it would be premature to comment on basing under the future service.

Service Personnel and Veterans Agency

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many staff the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency employed on the latest date for which figures are available; and what the monetary value of the salaries of *(a)* all staff and *(b)* its senior management was in the latest year for which figures are available. [18451]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The Service Personnel and Veterans Agency employed 1,003 full-time equivalent staff during the year 2009-10. Salaries and wages of all staff for the same period was £27.112 million. Senior management salaries are detailed in the following table:

Salary including performance pay 2009-10

	£000
Chief Executive	105-110
Deputy Chief Executive/Head Strategy and Programmes	95-100
Head Veterans Services	65-70
Head Change	95-100
Head Military Services	60-65
Head Transition Services	30-35
Head Corporate Services	80-85
Head Military Services[1]	30-35
Non Executive Director	10-15
Non Executive Director	10-15

[1] There are two Heads of Military Services noted, as one completed only a partial year.

This information has been taken from the SPVA annual report and accounts 2009-10, which once published will be available in the Library of the House.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Jonathan Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what consultation other than meetings has been held with representatives of the *(a)* aerospace industry, *(b)* maritime industry and *(c)* other defence industries as part of his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review; [17180]

(2) what meetings he has *(a)* had and *(b)* planned with representatives of the (i) aerospace, (ii) maritime, (iii) cyber technology and (iv) other defence sectors as part of his Department's Strategic Defence and Security Review. [17181]

Dr Fox: Ministers and officials had many discussions with industry representatives while the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) was in progress, including a full meeting of the National Defence Industries Council which I chaired, and various sub-group meetings, as well as meeting with individual companies.

The Ministry of Defence Ministers will continue to meet with industry representatives in the coming months, to discuss the follow-up to the SDSR.

Trident

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department has planned for the UK Trident warhead life extension programme; and how much it has spent on this programme to date. [17301]

Dr Fox: Stockpile management and certification activity, including obsolescence management, is contained within the annual cost of operating the Atomic Weapons Establishment, which is around £1 billion per annum in the current pricing period, to the end of March 2013. Costs are not disaggregated into sub-strands of activity. It is therefore not possible to provide disaggregated costs as they are not held in the format requested.

Type 26 Frigates

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his timetable is for the introduction of the Type 26 Frigate. [19315]

Peter Luff: On current plans, the first Type 26 or Global Combat Ship is expected to enter service early in the next decade and this was confirmed in the strategic defence and security review published on 19 October 2010.

Warships

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the effect on the capacity of the Royal Navy to meet current commitments of the proposed change to the size of the surface fleet. [19318]

Peter Luff: As explained in the White Paper, 'Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The Strategic Defence and Security Review (Cmd 7948)', the Royal Navy will continue to provide continuous at sea nuclear deterrence, the maritime defence of the UK and our overseas territories, as well as an enduring presence in priority regions such as the Gulf. The surface fleet will remain able to deliver a full spectrum of maritime capabilities from high intensity warfare to projecting UK influence.

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects Royal Navy ships in extended readiness to be brought back into service. [19375]

Peter Luff: Most Royal Navy ships enter states of low or very low readiness at various times during their operational lives. This is usually to allow for periods of maintenance, or when there is no operational priority to hold them at higher readiness. Ships are returned to higher states of readiness as and when they are required for operational purposes.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Subsidies

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many Single Payment Scheme leased land agreements the Rural Payments Agency failed to reinstate to the owner at the lease agreement end date owing to computer technical difficulties in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [18683]

Mr Paice: There were no occasions when technical problems prevented reinstatement of leased land in 2008-09 and 2009-10.

Mr Graham Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what percentage of Single Payment Scheme payment entitlements were not paid owing to technical problems in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; [18684]

(2) in respect of how many Single Payment Scheme entitlements the Rural Payments Agency has not yet released payments owing to computer technical difficulties in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [18685]

Mr Paice: The position as at 15 October is as follows:

SPS 2008 (2008-09 from the question) year

50 farmers, representing less than 0.05%, have not been paid. None of these are due to technical difficulties.

A further 92 farmers, representing approximately 0.1%, have received a manual payment of up to 95% of their estimated claim value and will receive a top-up payment once their claims have been finalised. The majority of these are due to technical difficulties.

SPS 2009 (2009-10 from the question) year

127 farmers, representing approximately 0.1%, have not been paid. None of these are due to technical difficulties.

A further 956 farmers, representing approximately 1%, have received a manual payment of up to 95% of their estimated claim value and will receive a top-up payment once their claims have been finalised. The majority of these are due to technical difficulties.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm business income of *(a)* all farm types, *(b)* sheep farms and *(c)* dairy farms was in each of the last five years. [18822]

Mr Paice: Data on average farm business income for all farm types and dairy farms for the five years to 2008-09 are shown in the table. Figures are not produced separately for specialist sheep farms, except for those in the severely disadvantaged areas. This information is also shown in the table against that for all grazing livestock farm types in the less favoured areas for comparison.

Data on average farm business income for 2009-10 will be published on 28 October 2010 and will be available at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/evidence/statistics/foodfarm/farmmanage/fbs/published-data/fbsincomes/

Average farm business income per farm for LFA grazing livestock farms types, England, current prices

Farm type	*2004-05*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*£/farm* *2008-09*
All farm types	28,300	28,600	34,400	48,200	50,900
Dairy farms	33,100	33,600	30,800	55,100	69,400
Specialist sheep farms (SDA)	15,200	15,500	12,900	14,900	20,300
All LFA grazing livestock farm types	16,200	15,800	10,500	10,400	17,100

Animal Welfare

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect on the welfare of farmed animals of the closure of the Farm Animal Welfare Council. [18596]

Mr Paice: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 630W. Changing the status of the Farm Animal Welfare Council to an Expert Committee will ensure the work of this important body can continue and we will seek to ensure this change has no adverse impact on the welfare of farmed animals.

Animals: Diseases

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what notifiable animal disease outbreaks have occurred in each of the last five years; and what estimate she has made of the cost to the economy of each such outbreak. [18392]

Mr Paice: A list of notifiable animal disease outbreaks since 2004 is available on the DEFRA website:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/foodfarm/farmanimal/diseases/atoz/ndi/index.htm

Information on the cost of all notifiable disease outbreaks is not available for each of the last five years.

DEFRA's current estimate of the economic cost to the UK livestock sector as a result of the 2007 Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) outbreak is over £100 million. The estimated total cost to the Government of the outbreaks in 2007 is £47 million for FMD, £1.7 million on bluetongue and £5 million on Avian Influenza (two outbreaks). During 2010 there have been three outbreaks of equine infectious anaemia, and the cost of these outbreaks has been £0.2 million.

The other values could be provided only at disproportionate cost to the Department.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on implementation of each recommendation of the Krebs report on the links between bovine tuberculosis and badgers. [18610]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The 1997 Krebs report included a large number of recommendations, the vast majority of which have been implemented. The recommendations fall into four categories, and actions taken in each of these categories are summarised as follows:

Research to better understand the causes of herd breakdown

DEFRA has put in place a wide-ranging portfolio of research to examine this issue. Since 1997, approximately 40 research projects have been funded in this area, the reports of which are available on the DEFRA website.

Work to evaluate the effectiveness of the current available strategies to reduce herd breakdowns

The main recommendation was implemented through the establishment of the Randomised Badger Culling Trial in 1998. This study compared the effectiveness of no culling, proactive and reactive culling policies. DEFRA has also funded over 20 research projects to evaluate available strategies including, as recommended in the Krebs report, examining the effectiveness of proactive husbandry measures.

Work to develop improved strategies to reduce herd breakdown

This has involved the development of vaccines to protect badgers and cattle against tuberculosis (TB) and a diagnostic test to distinguish infected from vaccinated cattle. Total investment in vaccine development from 1998 has now reached more than £30 million and includes over 20 research projects. An injectable vaccine for badgers was licensed in March 2010. An oral badger vaccine is at the research stage and may be available from 2015. We aim to have a licensed BCG cattle vaccine and a validated differential diagnostic test by the end of 2012. However, due to the need to change EU legislation before cattle can be vaccinated for TB, we anticipate that a cattle vaccine could not be used in the field before 2015 at the earliest.

Other recommendations

These covered a range of issues and have been implemented through increasing the use of modelling, making more data available to researchers, whenever possible using open competition to select research contractors, working collaboratively with other funders, increasing the spend on TB research from £1.7 million in 1998-99 to £7.9 million in 2010-11 and liaising with the Health Protection Agency in monitoring bovine TB incidence in humans.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with her counterpart in the Welsh Assembly Government on the operation of the badger cull and vaccination programme in Wales. [19205]

Mr Paice: I have regular contact with the Minister for Rural Affairs in the Welsh Assembly Government on a range of issues, including bovine TB and badger control. In addition, officials in England and Wales have regular discussions about this issue.

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many contracts her Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18621]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table.

	Number of contracts	*Paid 2010-11[1] (£)*
DEFRA	3	293,582.40
Animal Health	1	92,531.25
Food and Environment Research Agency	2	130,069.00
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	0	—
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	0	—
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	0	—
Rural Payments Agency	1	251.54

[1] April to September

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions by her Department; and what assessment she has made of the effects on the prospects for small businesses of winning contracts of such statements. [19016]

Richard Benyon: Our Pre-Qualification Questionnaire (PQQ) and Invitation to Tender (ITT) ask how the supplier's quality management processes will help deliver the required goods/service. The question on Quality Management is one of a series of questions that help us to evaluate and select the most suitable provider. If the business has the required expertise/experience to deliver the required services they should be able to comfortably answer these questions irrespective of the size of the organisation.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much was paid to officials in her Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18755]

Richard Benyon: Information on other payments paid in addition to salary are not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost for the Department and its non-departmental public bodies (core DEFRA and those organisations covered by DEFRA terms and conditions—Animal Health and the Veterinary Medicines Directorate)

The requested information on non-consolidated variable performance pay for the financial years from 2005-6 to 2009-10 has been placed in the House Library, where available. Information on these payments prior to this date is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much she plans to allocate in capital funding to each agency sponsored by her Department for each of the next four financial years; and what capital funding she made to each such agency for 2010-11. [19422]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* Given constrained capital budgets across Government in this spending review period, DEFRA is in the process of considering its investment requirements carefully in order to agree an allocation across the portfolio. Allocation of the capital budget will be prioritised to ensure that value for money is achieved while meeting DEFRA's strategic priorities. More information on allocations should be available in January 2011.

Capital allocations to DEFRA's Executive Agencies in 2010-11 are:

Agency	*Capital allocation (£ million)*
Animal Health	12.9
Centre for Environment, Fisheries and Aquaculture Science (CEFAS)	3.4
Food and Environment Research Agency (Fera)	2.5
Rural Payments Agency (RPA)	10.7
Veterinary Laboratories Agency (VLA)	6.8
Veterinary Medicines Directorate (VMD)	0.3

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what funding she plans to allocate to the Environment Agency for each of the next four financial years; and what funding she allocated to that agency for 2010-11. [19423]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: Following the Spending Review, DEFRA is considering budget allocations for the next four financial years across the DEFRA network, including the Environment Agency. More information on allocations should be available in January 2011.

The Environment Agency's grant in aid budget from DEFRA for 2010-11 is currently £644.5 million for flood and coastal erosion risk management and £146.3 million for environmental protection.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many days her Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate she made of the cost to her Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18758]

Richard Benyon: The following table shows the total working days lost through sickness in DEFRA and its agencies in each year since 2002. The end dates of the 12 month periods vary between years due to the way that data was collected at the time. No estimate has been made of the cost to the Department of sickness absence in each such year. However, the pay equivalent of days lost through sickness absence in 2009 was £9.6 million.

12 months ending	*Total working days lost*
31 December 2002	120,800
31 December 2003	121,200
31 December 2004	107,000
31 December 2005	[1]102,000
31 March 2007	92,600
31 March 2008	89,100
31 March 2009	80,100
31 March 2010	78,403

[1] Excludes Central Science Laboratory for which data are not available.

Environmental Stewardship Schemes: Finance

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) how many higher level stewardship agreements she expects to be funded by Natural England in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12, *(c)* 2012-13, *(d)* 2013-14 and *(e)* 2014-15; [19799]

(2) what estimate Natural England made of the number of higher level stewardship agreements to be funded in the financial year 2010-11 at the commencement of the financial year; and what its most recent estimate is of that number. [19800]

Mr Paice: Natural England's estimate of the number of Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) agreements to be funded at the start of the current financial year was 7,663. These estimates are currently being reviewed in the light of the outcome of the spending review. Spending on HLS will continue to grow throughout the remainder of the lifetime of the Rural Development Programme for England, and will be 83% higher in 2013-14 than in the current financial year.

Detailed budgets for the spending review period will be finalised shortly, and DEFRA will be working with Natural England to ensure that the available budget is targeted effectively at the delivery of key environmental outcomes. It is, therefore, not possible at this stage to provide precise estimates of the number of HLS agreements which are expected to be funded in each year.

Equine Infectious Anaemia

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with her counterparts in the devolved Administrations on the recent outbreak of equine infectious anaemia. [18808]

Mr Paice: Regular discussions were held with the devolved Administrations throughout the September outbreak. As set out in DEFRA's Contingency Plan for Exotic Diseases of Animals, the devolved Administrations are an integral part of disease response and are included in all the major discussions on disease control measures throughout any outbreak.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with representatives of the equine industry on the recent outbreak of equine infectious anaemia. [18811]

Mr Paice: Regular discussions were held with representatives of the equine industry throughout the September outbreak. As set out in DEFRA's Contingency Plan for Exotic Diseases of Animals, shortly after the disease outbreak had been confirmed by the chief veterinary officer, a meeting of DEFRA's Core Group of equine stakeholders was convened to discuss the control measures to be applied. The Core Group continued to meet regularly throughout the outbreak.

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the adequacy of the compensation scheme for animals that have been compulsorily slaughtered following a positive identification of equine infectious anaemia. [18997]

Mr Paice: For equine infectious anaemia (EIA), the statutory compensation payable is determined by the Equine Infectious Anaemia (Compensation) Order 2006.

The compensation paid for any infected animal that is culled, reflects the fact that an infected animal, which does not die as a result of the disease itself, remains a lifelong carrier of the infection. It therefore poses a risk to all other horses, ponies and donkeys in the immediate vicinity and as such, would have negligible market value. The nominal sum of £1 compensation reflects this.

Equine Infectious Anaemia: Disease Control

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will discuss with the EU Commission the merits of an enhanced disease testing regime for intra-Community horse movements following the recent outbreak of equine infectious anaemia. [18998]

Mr Paice: Existing EU rules on intra-Community trade in all livestock, including horses, places responsibility on the consigning member state to control disease on its territory and to certify that any consignments for movement to another member state are safe. The rules do not permit extensive or blanket checks carried out by the importing member state. Such measures would be a burdensome restriction on trade, disproportionate to the risk and would fall foul of EU trade rules. The UK is a major beneficiary of the open market and these trade rules facilitate our thriving trade in the movement of livestock and their products. As a further assurance to the importing member states, the rules do allow them to carry out checks for compliance with certification on a proportion of consignments. As such, we currently have in place enhanced post import checks for certain consignments of horses.

Additionally, DEFRA is in regular contact with other member states and the Commission and discussions are taking place on the movements of horses and the risk of transmitting exotic disease. Any further protective measures introduced would be expected to be proportionate to the risk and to continue within the boundaries of EU rules.

Fisheries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many UK-registered fishing vessels were reported as lost at sea in each of the last five years. [18821]

Richard Benyon: The number of UK registered fishing boats, reported as accidentally lost at sea in each of the last five years is:

Vessels

	Number
2005	34
2006	19
2007	21
2008	21
2009	14

Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she plans to publish the projected budgets for the Natural England higher level stewardship scheme for the next four financial years. [19779]

Mr Paice: We are working with Natural England to finalise the detailed budgets for the remaining years of the current Rural Development Programme for England. Spending on higher level stewardship (HLS) will be 83% higher in 2013-14 than in the current financial year. Changes in the financial plan for the remainder of the programme will also need to be approved by the European Commission. We shall publish financial plans for the remainder of the programme period following those discussions.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to announce her Department's policy on the renewal of higher level stewardship schemes. [19781]

Mr Paice: Spending on higher level stewardship (HLS) will continue to grow throughout the remainder of the lifetime of the Rural Development Programme for England, and will be 83% higher in 2013-14 than in the current financial year. HLS schemes remain open for applications for agreements which will start from April 2011 or later. Natural England has temporarily suspended approvals of HLS agreements with a start date prior to April 2011 while the impacts of the spending review outcome are being assessed. We hope to confirm the situation shortly.

Horses: Disease Control

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on the bio-security of equestrian events at the London 2012 Olympics. [18804]

Mr Paice: DEFRA has been working closely with the organisers of the London 2012 Olympics and Paralympics and the Government Olympic Executive. Officials met recently to discuss the handling of various exotic equine diseases should an incursion occur in the run up to, or during, the Games.

Hunting Act 2004: Convictions

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many convictions there have been for offences under the Hunting Act 2004 in each year from 2005 to 2009. [19123]

Mr Paice: The number of defendants found guilty at all courts for offences under the Hunting Act 2004[1] in England and Wales from 2005-09[2, 3, 4] are as follows:

	Found guilty
2005	2
2006	5
2007	48

	Found guilty
2008	33
2009	57

[1] Came into force on 18 February 2005.

[2] The court proceedings statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences, the principal offence is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes, and their inevitable limitations, are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Excludes data for Cardiff magistrates court for April, July and August 2008.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice

Hydrofluorocarbons

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent steps her Department has taken to reduce the use of hydrofluorocarbons in *(a)* refrigeration and *(b)* heat pumps; and if she will make a statement. [18515]

Richard Benyon: A comprehensive EU regulatory framework to contain, prevent and thereby reduce, emissions of hydrofluorocarbons from equipment such as refrigeration and heat pumps is already in place, having been fully implemented since 2009 in Great Britain by the Fluorinated Greenhouse Gases Regulations 2009 (SI 2009/261).

Slaughterhouses: Devon

Mel Stride: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many abattoirs there were in Central Devon constituency in *(a)* 2000, *(b)* 2005, *(c)* 2007 and *(d)* on the latest date for which figures are available. [19148]

Mr Paice: The number of approved slaughterhouses operating in the Central Devon constituency was:

	Number
2000	7
2005	8
2007	7
2010	6

Notes:

1. All figures are for a financial (April-March) year.
2. The figure for 2010 is correct at 21 October 2010.

Task Force on Farming Regulation

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which *(a)* regulations, *(b)* directions and *(c)* circulars affecting farming and food are being examined by the Task Force on Farming Regulation; and how much her Department spent on compliance and monitoring work in respect of each such measure in the latest year for which figures are available. [19421]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The Task Force on Farm Regulation has been asked to identify ways to reduce the regulatory burden on farmers and food processors. Its remit covers all regulations that apply to farming, including horticulture; food issues where they apply on farm; food processing where farmer and producer interests overlap; and processing of farmed produce. It will focus on those areas of most concern to business and has asked for ideas and suggestions identifying unnecessary regulations, gold-plating and measures that are over-complex in implementation or enforcement to be submitted by 31 October.

Water: Shortages

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what regulatory obligations to nearby residents there are upon water companies during major renewal or construction works. [19096]

Richard Benyon: Paragraph 1 of schedule 12 to the Water Industry Act 1991 provides that water companies should do as little damage as possible while undertaking streetworks, and should pay compensation for any loss or damage caused as a result of the company exercising its street works powers. Schedule 12 goes on to say that any dispute as to whether compensation should be paid, or as to the amount of compensation, should be referred to the arbitration of a single arbitrator appointed by agreement between the parties to the dispute. Ofwat can appoint an arbitrator if the parties cannot agree on one. Ofwat does not have a formal role in deciding whether or how much compensation should be paid under schedule 12.

Section 60 of the Control of Pollution Act 1974 empowers local authorities to serve notices upon works of construction and demolition (the erection, construction, alteration, repair or maintenance of buildings, structures or roads and demolition or dredging work). Notices can specify what plant or machinery may or may not be used, the hours during which works may be carried out, and the levels of noise that are acceptable from the works.

Section 61 enables a person intending to carry out works to apply for consent from the local authority. An application should contain the particulars of the works and the method by which they are to be carried out, and the steps proposed to be taken to minimise noise resulting from the works.

If a person on whom a section 60 notice has been served contravenes any requirement of the notice without reasonable excuse, there is a penalty upon summary conviction of a fine not exceeding level 5 on the standard scale, together with a fine not exceeding £50 for each day on which the offence continues.

Wheat: Prices

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average farm gate price was of *(a)* corn, *(b)* wheat and *(c)* soya beans in each month of the last five years. [18495]

Mr Paice: Because grain maize and soya beans are only grown in small amounts in the UK we do not have detailed UK farm gate price information for these crops.

The average price of British wheat, calculated from returns by merchants in England and Wales under the Corn Returns Act 1882 (as amended) in each month of the last five years is given in the following table:

Average price of wheat per tonne each month

£

	Jan	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*
2010	102.65	95.85	94.30	98.84	103.48	101.55	117.36	145.48	152.36	—	—	—
2009	110.90	115.13	110.98	108.78	117.15	114.05	105.16	95.65	94.58	102.82	104.75	104.88
2008	164.74	175.35	179.68	169.08	151.02	144.78	138.50	123.93	114.70	100.00	95.40	97.33
2007	91.40	90.40	92.16	93.33	96.66	104.25	116.23	141.90	172.48	147.43	146.60	158.8
2006	68.98	69.98	70.28	71.88	74.53	76.74	75.80	77.70	84.40	93.15	92.68	90.50

Source: Home-Grown Cereals Authority.

JUSTICE

Chelmsford Prison

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice for how long the tumble drier for use by prisoners at Chelmsford Prison has not been working; and when he expects it to be repaired or replaced. [19607]

Mr Blunt: HMP Chelmsford has a tumble drier on E wing which has not been working for about two months. It requires a replacement seal and arrangements are being made for its repair. In the meantime prisoners can use an alternative tumble drier available on the wing or have their clothing laundered in the prison's main industrial laundry facility.

Courts

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to increase the level of enforcement of family court orders. [19789]

Mr Djanogly: Enforcement of an individual court order is a matter for the independent judiciary. Her Majesty's Courts Service does not collect general statistics on enforcement of orders made in the family courts.

Enforcement arises most often in cases concerning children and financial arrangements, where a range of enforcement mechanisms already exist.

In ancillary relief cases, the courts can register the judgment and enforce the amount payable by means of remedies available for debt, for example by attachment of earnings, placing a charge upon property or requiring payment from a person holding money owed to the person in breach of the order.

In cases concerning the payment of child maintenance, various provisions are available to enforce the debt and an application can be made to court for a person who refuses to pay to be sent to prison. The Child Maintenance and Other Payments Act 2008 strengthened the range of enforcement and debt management powers available to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission.

In relation to child contact, the courts were given wider powers in December 2008 to enforce orders by imposing unpaid work, or awarding financial compensation, where a person breaches a contact order without reasonable excuse.

The family courts also have an inherent power to treat breach of an order as a contempt of court, with the sanction of a fine or imprisonment, although this is rarely used in family proceedings.

The family justice review is currently considering whether there are better alternatives to court in appropriate cases, such as mediation. Mediation can be quicker, cheaper and can help to maintain ongoing parenting relationships, avoiding the need for enforcement action later on.

Family Courts

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review his Department's policy on the *(a)* granting of parental access to children and *(b)* interviewing of young children in the family court process. [19062]

Mr Djanogly: The Secretary of State for Education, the Welsh Assembly Government Minister for Health and Social Services and the Secretary of State for Justice have commissioned a review of the family justice system in England and Wales to examine the effectiveness of the family justice system, the outcomes it delivers and to make recommendations for reform.

The review is examining how to promote contact rights for non-resident parents and grandparents where this is in the best the interests of the child. The review will also examine how best to ensure the voice of the child is heard.

We will consider the recommendations of the review when it is published in autumn 2011.

Juries

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what legislative proposals he plans to bring forward to protect trial by jury. [19223]

Mr Blunt: We are looking carefully at repealing the provision in the Criminal Justice Act 2003 that allows certain fraud cases to be tried without a jury.

Magistrates

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will undertake a review of the requirement for magistrates to retire from the bench at the age of 70 years. [19030]

Mr Djanogly: There are currently no plans to undertake a review. The retirement age for magistrates is 70 and is set in statute under section 13 of the Courts Act 2003. This is in line with the retirement age for the vast majority of other judicial offices.

The contribution of magistrates of all ages is invaluable. However, it is important that magistrates reflect the diverse communities they serve. While there has been positive progress on ethnic and gender diversity, 82% of magistrates are 50 or over and the average age is 57. As well as taking magistrates out of step with other judicial offices, increasing the retirement age would reduce the number of available vacancies and thus reduce opportunities for younger people to become magistrates.

Magistrates Courts: Closures

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the likely effect on levels of engagement between magistrates and local communities of implementation of his proposals to close magistrates courts. [19476]

Mr Djanogly: Engagement between magistrates and local communities is not dependent on the number or location of court buildings. Her Majesty's Courts Service and the magistracy have been at the forefront of visible and continual engagement with communities, working with other justice agencies to understand and discuss the justice issues that affect those communities and what can be done to resolve them, as well as improving public understanding of the work of the courts and the wider justice system.

The aim of the community engagement work of the magistrates courts is to improve public confidence in the justice system by strengthening links between courts, the communities they serve and the wider justice system, while preserving judicial independence.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the change in the number of serving magistrates arising from implementation of his proposals to close magistrates courts. [19489]

Mr Djanogly: The number of serving magistrates should not be directly affected by court closures as workload is not being reduced but transferred to nearby courts, where magistrates will continue to hear cases from their local justice area or, as a result of any local justice area proposals, across a new, merged local justice area. However, I recognise the need for numbers of magistrates to be commensurate with workload and we expect advisory committees to take this balance into account as they think about possible future appointments.

Magistrates: Utilisation Rates

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will place in the Library a copy of the utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England in the latest period for which information is available. [19117]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested on utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for the period April to June 2010 is within the following table:

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
Aberdare	44.3
Abertillery	47.4
Aberystwyth	55.5
Aldershot	69.5
Alnwick	56.6
Alton	63.8
Ammanford	61.6
Andover	21.4
Ashford	62.5
Aylesbury	88.4
Banbury	77.2
Barking (East Street)	69.1
Barnsley	61.7
Barnstaple	72.4
Barrow in Furness	64.9
Barry	54.1
Basildon	67.6
Basingstoke	82.8
Bath	70.6
Bedford	67.0
Berwick upon Tweed	57.7
Beverley	44.8
Bexley	78.2
Bicester	59.9
Bingley	66.3
Birkenhead	60.6
Birmingham (Corporation St)	62.4
Bishop Auckland	33.2
Blackburn	71.8
Blackpool	88.6
Blackwood Family Court	17.5
Blaydon	39.8
Bodmin	73.8
Bolton	62.8
Bootle	81.7
Boston	42.9
Bournemouth	72.5
Bracknell	59.0
Bradford	52.7
Brecon	29.7
Brent	51.8
Brentford	19.9
Bridgend	55.8
Bridgwater	51.2
Bridlington	43.5
Brighton	75.7
Bristol	86.0
Bromley (London Road)	71.7
Burnley	77.8
Burton upon Trent	50.5
Bury	61.4
Bury St Edmunds	62.8
Buxton	59.0
Caernarfon	73.0
Caerphilly	82.6
Calderdale	57.8
Camberwell Green	93.3
Camborne (Bassett Rd)	26.7
Cambridge	39.3
Cannock	69.0
Canterbury	62.6
Cardiff	49.4
Cardigan	24.5
Carlisle	61.2
Carmarthen	30.0
Chelmsford	59.7
Cheltenham (St George's Road)	49.5
Chester	56.9
Chesterfield (Tapton Lane)	65.9
Chichester	62.0
Chippenham	52.7
Chorley	78.2
City of London	90.3
City of Westminster	117.2
Coalville	28.9

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
Colchester (Town Hall)	58.7
Consett	70.8
Corby	51.4
Coventry	69.1
Crawley	90.9
Crewe	58.6
Cromer	22.0
Croydon	63.8
Cwmbran	70.9
Darlington	54.3
Dartford	80.0
Daventry	45.6
Denbigh	14.0
Derby (St Mary's Gate)	67.7
Dewsbury	53.6
Didcot	50.5
Dolgellau	39.0
Doncaster	64.0
Dover	49.0
Dudley	65.8
Durham	53.5
Ealing	78.8
Eastbourne	65.3
Ely	21.6
Enfield	75.2
Epping	30.1
Exeter	70.8
Fareham	77.2
Feltham	79.5
Fenland	32.6
Fleetwood	64.1
Flint	27.4
Folkestone	77.1
Gateshead	82.2
Gloucester (Barbican Way)	35.2
Goole	33.0
Gosforth	33.1
Grantham	33.0
Grays	66.0
Great Yarmouth	40.5
Greenwich	88.5
Grimsby	71.0
Guildford	58.4
Halesowen	8.7
Harlow	77.1
Harrogate	49.1
Harrow	95.0
Hartlepool	71.0
Harwich	36.5
Hastings	80.1
Haverfordwest	53.4
Havering	76.7
Haywards Heath	52.4
Hemel Hempstead	53.6
Hendon	81.9
Hereford	67.4
Hertford	62.8
Highbury Corner	86.3
Highgate	57.3
Hinckley	48.4
Holyhead	34.4
Honiton	15.2
Horsham	33.6
Huddersfield	46.4
Hull and Holderness	61.8
Huntingdon	42.9
Hyndburn	71.9
ILCFPC	95.1
Ilkeston	8.6
Ipswich	57.0
Kendal	31.6
Kettering	72.5
Kidderminster	55.4
King's Lynn	69.6
Kingston upon Thames	60.8
Knowsley	55.6
Lancaster	55.0
Langbaurgh East	52.0
Leeds	64.6
Leicester	79.4
Lewes	38.6
Leyland	64.1
Lincoln	53.7
Liskeard	16.6
Liverpool (Dale St)	48.1
Llandrindod Wells (Brecon)	63.2
Llandrindod Wells (Welshpool)	10.2
Llandudno	71.8
Llanelli	54.7
Llangefni	12.9
Loughborough	55.6
Lowestoft	44.4
Ludlow	59.5
Luton	68.7
Lyndhurst	56.6
Macclesfield (Hibel Rd)	72.4
Maidenhead	60.2
Maidstone	86.7
Manchester City	74.1
Mansfield (Rosemary St)	52.3
Market Drayton	19.0
Market Harborough	29.0
Medway (Chatham)	64.6
Melton Mowbray	32.9
Merthyr Tydfil	49.5
Milton Keynes	65.1
Mold	67.7
Neath and Port Talbot	43.5
Newark	59.8
Newbury	66.9
Newcastle under Lyme	73.6
Newcastle Upon Tyne	84.4
Newport	63.4
Newport (Civic Centre)	87.4
Newport (Clarence House)	57.8
Newton Abbot	51.7
Newton Aycliffe	73.4
North Liverpool Community Justice Centre	74.5
North London Family Proceedings Court	79.8
North Tyneside	71.9
Northallerton	80.3
Northampton	81.7
Northwich	75.3
Norwich	65.1
Nottingham (Carrington St)	57.7
Nuneaton	84.9

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
Oldham	62.7
Ormskirk	52.1
Oswestry	28.0
Oxford	68.9
Penrith	37.5
Penzance	9.6
Peterborough	44.0
Peterlee	76.9
Plymouth	60.2
Pontefract	71.4
Pontypridd	47.0
Poole	55.3
Portsmouth	75.9
Prestatyn	58.7
Preston	86.9
Pwllheli	25.7
Reading	91.1
Redbridge	84.0
Redditch	62.1
Redhill	74.0
Reedley	41.9
Retford	26.0
Richmond upon Thames	82.1
Rochdale	70.5
Rossendale	22.2
Rotherham	58.6
Rugby	58.4
Runcorn	54.8
Salford	44.3
Salisbury (Guildhall)	60.8
Scarborough	62.1
Scunthorpe	81.7
Selby	53.4
Sevenoaks	78.9
Sheffield	65.0
Shrewsbury	60.7
Sittingbourne	61.3
Skegness	42.4
Skipton	48.4
Slough	101.2
Solihull	67.4
South East Northumberland	70.3
South Tyneside Law Courts	66.4
South Western	84.3
Southampton (The Avenue)	60.0
Southend on Sea	49.3
Southport	61.8
Spalding	41.9
St Albans	75.2
St Helens	58.7
Stafford	46.3
Staines	72.8
Stevenage	66.9
Stockport	45.2
Stoke on Trent	80.2
Stratford	69.7
Stratford upon Avon	83.9
Stroud	42.7
Sudbury	22.9
Sunderland and Houghton-le-Spring	64.6
Sutton	40.5
Sutton Coldfield	65.1
Swaffham	22.7
Swansea	71.3
Swindon	64.4
Tameside	74.6
Tamworth	66.5
Taunton	56.8
Teesside	77.6
Telford	62.6
Thames	90.7
Thanet (Margate)	91.3
Thetford	31.1
Torquay	87.4
Torquay County Court	14.9
Towcester	36.9
Trafford	85.5
Truro	60.9
Tynedale	84.1
Uxbridge	83.3
Wakefield	61.6
Walsall	82.0
Waltham Forest	71.4
Warley	74.2
Warrington (Arpley Street)	79.2
Watford	63.6
Wellingborough	64.6
Welshpool	43.5
West Bromwich	43.9
West London	95.7
Weston Super Mare	64.1
Weymouth	19.9
Whitehaven	48.0
Wigan	72.8
Wimbledon	85.3
Wimborne	5.0
Witham	46.0
Witney	30.6
Woking	65.7
Wolverhampton	54.4
Worcester	79.1
Workington	72.9
Worksop	47.6
Worthing	64.6
Wrexham	69.6
Wycombe	80.9
Yate	59.2
Yeovil	28.8
York	67.3
England and Wales	62.7

Notes:
1. These data were subject to the minimum data quality checks.
2. Courtroom utilisation is the total number of hours used for judicial business in all courtrooms, divided by the total number of court hours available to be used.

Source:
HMCS Performance Database (OPT)

Prison Accommodation

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what guidance his Department issues to prisons on the provision of *(a)* curtains and *(b)* duvets in cells. [19430]

Mr Blunt: Prisoners may earn privileges under the local Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme, details of which are set out in Prison Service Order (PSO) 4000 which is available in the Library of the House. Curtains and duvets are not included in the key earnable privileges listed in the PSO, but Governors have discretion to offer additional earnable privileges which reflect the regime of the prison. Some prisons may allow prisoners to have curtains and/or duvets as an earnable privilege.

Prisons requesting curtains and duvets are given guidance on the requirements for fire safety and the management of the ligature risk.

PSO 1250 on Prisoners' Property, also in the Library, sets out guidance on the items of their own personal property prisoners are allowed to have in possession. There is no specific guidance issued to prisons on allowing curtains and duvets in cells.

Prison Service: Taxis

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much the Prison Service spent on taxis in each of the last five years. [19481]

Mr Blunt: Her Majesty's Prison Service is part of the National Offender Management Service (NOMS). The NOMS accounting system does not record expenditure on taxis separately from other forms of travel. It would incur disproportionate cost to examine thousands of individual expense claims in order to identify expenditure on taxis.

All travel by Ministers is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the ministerial code. All official travel by NOMS staff is completed in line with the published rules for official travel and subsistence. The rules are in accordance with the guidelines set out in the civil service management code.

The NOMS policy on staff use of taxis is that staff may only claim reimbursement of fares in the following circumstances:

(i) for journeys for which there is no other suitable method of public transport; or

(ii) where heavy luggage has to be transported to or from the place of departure or arrival; or

(iii) where the saving of official time is important.

Prisoners: Foreign Nationals

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many foreign prisoners were detained in each prison on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such prisoners had completed their sentences; [19462]

(2) how many prisoners there are from each *(a)* other EU member state and *(b)* non-EU country; [19463]

(3) how many foreign prisoners are serving a sentence of longer than six months. [19464]

Mr Blunt: The number of foreign national prisoners held in each prison establishment in England and Wales as at 30 June 2010 is shown in table 1. The Department publishes quarterly information on foreign national prisoners: the September 2010 data will be published on 28 October 2010.

As at 5 July 2010 (the closest date to 30 June for which this information is available), 581 foreign national prisoners were being held in prison under immigration powers after completion of their sentences. Table 2 shows a breakdown of this total by prison establishment.

As at 30 June 2010 there were 3,342 foreign national prisoners from other EU member states, and 7,793 non-EU nationals in custody. Table 3 shows a breakdown by country.

As at 30 June 2010, 6,434 foreign national prisoners were serving a sentence of longer than six months.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT and other systems which, as with any large scale recording systems, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing.

Table 1: Foreign national population by establishment at 30 June 2010

Establishment	*Total population*	*Foreign nationals*
Male		
Altcourse	1,261	92
Acklington	930	20
Ashfield	275	29
Ashwell	214	5
Aylesbury	433	[illegible]
Belmarsh	833	174
Buckley Hall	380	4
Blundeston	522	83
Bedford	487	102
Blantyre House	121	0
Bristol	607	55
Birmingham	1,475	236
Bullingdon	1,097	147
Bure	520	61
Brinsford	565	52
Bullwood Hall	224	217
Brixton	751	240
Chelmsford	656	88
Cardiff	794	58
Cookham Wood	112	13
Coldingley	505	18
Castington	191	2
Channings Wood	709	5
Canterbury	295	279
Dartmoor	585	68
Dovegate	1,127	98
Durham	916	58
Doncaster	1,071	112
Dorchester	220	16
Deerbolt	478	15
Dover	311	304
Erlestoke	464	16
Sheppey Cluster (Standford Hill)	444	32
Everthorpe	664	11
Exeter	530	38
Sheppey Cluster (Elmley)	1,134	162
Forest Bank	1,344	99
Ford	539	44
Frankland	821	56
Feltham	664	140
Full Sutton	589	55
Featherstone	643	57
Garth	835	57
Gloucester	289	33
Guys Marsh	552	66
Grendon/Spring Hill	550	20
Glen Parva	720	65
Gartree	671	83
Hollesley Bay	354	11
Huntercombe	65	11

Table 1: Foreign national population by establishment at 30 June 2010

Establishment	*Total population*	*Foreign nationals*
Hewell	1,374	189
Holme House	1,046	31
Hindley	331	9
Hull	1,000	72
High Down	1,047	224
Highpoint	939	190
Haslar	116	112
Haverigg	625	111
Isle of Wight	1,640	220
Kirkham	589	5
Kennet	341	2
Kirklevington Grange	271	0
Lancaster	237	5
Leicester	345	69
Leeds	1,114	92
Lancaster Farms	502	18
Lowdham Grange	880	125
Lindholme	1,102	289
Lincoln	573	77
Long Lartin	612	83
Latchmere House	191	5
Liverpool	1,245	113
Littlehey	1,031	137
Lewes	469	51
Leyhill	520	26
Moorland/Moorland Open	1,018	46
Manchester	1,206	165
Maidstone	586	236
Mount	769	191
Edmunds Hill	376	86
Nottingham	898	69
Northallerton	230	4
North Sea Camp	309	7
Norwich	749	84
Onley	692	38
Peterborough	586	107
Portland	468	55
Preston	753	35
Parc	1,085	40
Kingston (Portsmouth)	198	14
Pentonville	1,178	298
Rochester	723	127
Reading	257	19
Rye Hill	611	120
Ranby	1,062	108
Risley	1,085	148
Stafford	730	74
Stoke Heath	595	24
Stocken	833	32
Sheppey Cluster (Swaleside)	1,105	199
Shepton Mallet	189	8
Swinfen Hall	611	55
Sudbury	578	19
Swansea	421	15
Shrewsbury	313	14
Thorn Cross	288	1
Usk/Prescoed	423	16
Verne	579	308
Wellingborough	540	78
Winchester	680	65
Wakefield	733	67
Wealstun	613	14
Woodhill	757	103
Warren Hill	180	17
Wayland	1,001	37
Wymott	1,141	72
Werrington	126	2
Wolds	380	10
Whitemoor	449	99
Wormwood Scrubs	1,273	445
Whatton	794	44
Wandsworth	1,569	497
Wetherby	318	9
Total	80,735	10,361
Female		
Askham Grange	121	1
Bronzefield	479	150
Drake Hall	302	41
Downview	326	69
East Sutton Park	82	4
Eastwood Park	318	35
Foston Hall	245	13
Holloway	416	121
Low Newton	243	8
Morton Hall	284	174
New Hall	375	28
Peterborough	362	69
Send	273	30
Styal	441	31
Total	4,267	774
Male and female establishment total	85,002	11,135

Table 2: Foreign nationals held under immigration powers after completion of sentence, by establishment at 5 July 2010

	Number
Altcourse	7
Ashfield	1
Ashwell	1
Aylesbury	1
Bedford	11
Belmarsh	6
Birmingham	34
Blundeston	6
Brinsford	3
Bristol	8
Brixton	15
Bronzefield	5
Bullingdon	4
Bullwood Hall	19
Bure	1
Camp Hill	3
Canterbury	4
Cardiff	5
Castington	1
Chelmsford	14
Coldingley	2
Dartmoor	5
Deerbolt	1
Doncaster	8
Dorchester	1
Dovegate	9
Downview	2
Drake Hall	3
Durham	11

Table 2: Foreign nationals held under immigration powers after completion of sentence, by establishment at 5 July 2010

	Number
Eastwood Park	2
Edmunds Hill	8
Elmley	16
Everthorpe	1
Exeter	3
Featherstone	2
Feltham	4
Frankland	1
Garth	1
Glen Parva	7
Guys Marsh	9
Hewell	2
Hewell Grange	19
Highdown	22
Highpoint	4
Highpoint South	8
Holloway	6
Holme House	6
Hull	5
Lancaster Farms	2
Leeds	3
Leicester	6
Lewes	6
Lincoln	4
Lindholme	6
Littlehey	9
Liverpool	16
Long Lartin	4
Maidstone	8
Manchester	5
Moorland	1
Morton Hall	7
Mount	9
New Hall	1
Norwich	11
Nottingham	12
Onley	5
Parc	3
Pentonville	10
Peterborough	10
Portland	4
Preston	4
Ranby	5
Reading	2
Risley	12
Rochester	10
Stafford	6
Stocken	2
Styal	4
Swansea	1
Swinfen Hall	2
Usk	1
Verne	2
Wandsworth	32
Warren Hill	2
Wellingborough	3
Whatton	4
Winchester	2
Woodhill	9
Wormwood Scrubs	16
Wymott	3
Grand total	581

Table 3: Foreign national prisoner population by nationality, EU and non-EU at 30 June 2010

	Number
EU	3,342
Non-EU	7,793
EU	
Austria	15
Belgium	32
Bulgaria	43
Cyprus	28
Czech Republic	83
Denmark	9
Estonia	32
Finland	3
France	149
Germany	94
Greece	15
Hungary	47
Irish Republic	681
Italy	94
Latvia	150
Lithuania	361
Malta	3
Netherlands	119
Poland	642
Portugal	209
Romania	380
Slovakia	65
Slovenia	4
Spain	66
Sweden	18
Non EU	
Afghanistan	138
Albania	154
Algeria	175
Angola	74
Anguilla	2
Argentina	7
Armenia	9
Aruba	1
Australia	25
Azerbaijan	4
Bahamas	1
Bangladesh	216
Barbados	39
Belize	1
Benin	2
Bermuda	2
Bolivia	5
Bosnia and Herzegovina	18
Botswana	3
Brazil	65
Burundi	11
Cambodia	1
Cameroon	30
Canada	33
Central African Republic	23
Chile	8
China	364
Colombia	75
Congo	138
Congo, Democratic Republic of the	1
Costa Rica	5

Table 3: Foreign national prisoner population by nationality, EU and non-EU at 30 June 2010

	Number
Croatia	7
Cuba	4
Dominica	15
Ecuador	7
Egypt	20
Equatorial Guinea	1
Ethiopia	59
Fiji	6
French Guiana	3
Gabon	1
Gambia	58
Georgia	9
Ghana	141
Gibraltar	4
Grenada	17
Guatemala	3
Guinea	11
Guinea-Bissau	1
Guyana	34
Haiti	1
India	329
Indonesia	1
Iran	197
Iraq	234
Israel	43
Ivory Coast	31
Jamaica	942
Japan	1
Jordan	4
Kazakhstan	2
Kenya	62
Kiribati	1
Korea, DPR (North Korea)	2
Korea, Republic of	7
Kuwait	9
Kyrgyzstan	1
Lebanon	16
Liberia	26
Libyan Arab Jamahiriya	24
Macedonia	6
Malawi	17
Malaysia	39
Mali	2
Mauritania	5
Mauritius	18
Mexico	21
Moldova	18
Monaco	1
Mongolia	5
Montserrat	17
Morocco	58
Mozambique	4
Myanmar	3
Namibia	7
Nepal	10
Netherlands Antilles	7
New Zealand	5
Nicaragua	1
Niger	12
Nigeria	727
Norway	7
Oman	1
Other	1
Pakistan	440
Panama	1
Paraguay	2
Peru	5
Philippines	24
Qatar	1
Russian Federation	108
Rwanda	20
Samoa	1
San Marino	1
Saudi Arabia	12
Senegal	5
Serbia and Montenegro	28
Seychelles	4
Sierra Leone	72
Singapore	6
Somalia	433
South Africa	137
Sri Lanka	139
St Kitts and Nevis	3
St Lucia	30
St Vincent and the Grenadines	16
Sudan	41
Suriname	2
Swaziland	1
Switzerland	5
Syrian Arab Republic	11
Taiwan (Nationalist Chinese)	5
Tanzania	27
Thailand	10
Togo	7
Tonga	1
Trinidad and Tobago	56
Tunisia	19
Turkey	167
Turkmenistan	1
Uganda	67
United Arab Emirates	1
United States	90
Uruguay	1
Uzbekistan	9
Venezuela	18
Vietnam	596
Yemen, Republic of	10
Zambia	15
Zimbabwe	189

Prisoners: Islam

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of prison inmates who have converted to Islam while in prison in each of the last three years. [19396]

Mr Blunt: Information on the number of prisoners who have converted to Islam while in prison is not held centrally. The data held centrally, as recorded on the prison IT system, only include information on prisoners' current declared religion, not any previously declared religion. Therefore, it is not possible to identify how many prisoners have changed their religion while in prison.

Prisoners: Mobile Phones

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his proposal to issue mobile telephones to prisoners to be released to bail accommodation. [19399]

Mr Blunt: I understand the hon. Member is referring to the contract with Stonham, to provide private rented accommodation and support to those on bail and Home Detention Curfew who do not otherwise have an address to be released to. This is a fixed price contract. Stonham provide basic mobile telephones only to service users who do not have one so that contact can be maintained between an individual and their support officer. Stonham advise the phones cost them £7.49.

Prisoners: Telephones

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prisoners have telephones installed in their cells. [19401]

Mr Blunt: As at 22 October, 1,152 prisoners had access to telephones in their cells.

HM Prisons Lowdham Grange and Dovegate are the only two sites which provide prisoners with in-cell telephones. At Dovegate this provision is restricted to one houseblock. Both establishments are managed by the private sector. In-cell telephones offer the same level of security to those systems which are located in communal areas. Where appropriate calls can be recorded and monitored in line with existing policies.

Prisoners: Uniforms

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information the Prison Service holds on the number of prisoners who refused to wear *(a)* boiler suits and *(b)* other prison uniforms issued by the Prison Service in the latest period for which figures are available. [19483]

Mr Blunt: Refusal by prisoners to wear boiler suits or other prison uniforms is dealt with as a local disciplinary matter. Records do not distinguish between such cases and other instances of refusal to comply with orders or rules. This could be established only by examining the actual records of each disciplinary hearing manually at disproportionate cost.

Prisons: Drugs

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on drug addiction services in prisons. [19701]

Mr Blunt: I have had discussions with Ministers in a number of Departments including the Department of Health, Home Office and the Cabinet Office. These have covered a range of drugs related topics, including reforming drug addiction services in prisons.

Prisons: Personnel

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the Prison Service records the time taken by *(a)* prison officers and *(b)* other prison staff in collecting fresh clothing for inmates; and if he will make a statement. [19484]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service does not record this information. The arrangements for issuing freshly laundered clothing to prisoners, and the extent to which staff are involved, vary between prisons according to security factors and the layout of the establishment.

Prisons: Wales

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* community sentences, *(b)* fines, *(c)* custodial sentences and *(d)* cautions were imposed for convictions involving drug dealing for each illegal drug in each of the last three years. [19126]

Mr Blunt: The number of persons sentenced to community sentences, fines, immediate custody, other disposals and the total persons sentenced for drug dealing offences, as recorded on the courts proceedings database, in the last three years for which data are available is given in Table 1 as follows.

Table 2 refers to the number of offenders cautioned for drug dealing offences, in the last three years.

Drug dealing offences include: Supply or offering to supply a controlled drug or possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply.

Table 1: Persons sentenced for drug dealing offences[1] England and Wales 2007 to 2009[2, 3]

		Results							
Drug offences	*Year*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*	*Total sentenced*
Class A									
Cocaine	2007	4	9	25	189	260	1,190	14	1,691
	2008	1	13	20	207	313	1,658	32	2,244
	2009	0	6	11	201	357	1,833	10	2,418
Heroin	2007	0	10	10	288	260	1,706	23	2,297
	2008	2	12	6	334	266	1,861	58	2,538
	2009	1	8	1	305	273	1,804	15	2,407
LSD	2007	0	1	2	4	2	7	0	16
	2008	0	0	3	1	3	8	0	15

Table 1: Persons sentenced for drug dealing offences[1] England and Wales 2007 to 2009[2, 3]

		Results							
Drug offences	*Year*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*	*Total sentenced*
	2009	0	0	0	2	0	4	0	6
MDMA	2007	1	11	9	121	169	349	7	667
	2008	2	2	3	78	116	272	4	477
	2009	0	5	1	46	73	169	1	295
Crack	2007	0	3	4	74	55	482	7	625
	2008	0	3	0	136	76	583	17	815
	2009	0	1	1	78	63	484	8	635
Methadone	2007	0	1	1	7	4	7	0	20
	2008	0	0	1	7	6	12	0	26
	2009	0	1	2	6	4	17	0	30
Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	2007	0	0	0	0	0	3	0	3
	2008	0	0	0	2	4	1	0	7
	2009	0	0	0	3	2	6	0	11
Other Class A	2007	0	5	1	103	100	535	4	748
	2008	2	4	1	113	120	563	23	826
	2009	0	2	5	88	106	497	5	703
Class B									
Amphetamine	2007	1	9	10	66	123	148	1	358
	2008	1	6	8	80	109	194	3	399
	2009	0	1	9	71	120	188	4	393
Other Class B	2007	0	0	2	5	4	17	1	29
	2008	0	0	1	12	10	16	3	42
	2009	1	4	20	101	47	74	2	249
Class C									
Anabolic Steroids	2007	0	1	0	2	1	1	0	5
	2008	0	0	0	1	1	4	0	6
	2009	0	0	0	3	3	4	0	10
Ketamine	2007	0	0	3	4	0	0	0	7
	2008	0	0	1	11	1	3	1	17
	2009	0	1	4	27	11	4	0	47
GHB	2007	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
	2008	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
	2009	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Other Class C	2007	0	27	31	223	332	352	13	978
	2008	0	21	19	266	437	421	10	1,174
	2009	0	13	27	204	324	331	4	903
Cannabis[4]	2007	3	30	61	460	340	333	37	1,264
	2008	1	35	69	585	401	367	18	1,476
	2009	1	25	94	664	499	529	23	1,835
Unspecified	2007	1	2	5	18	20	253	2	301

Table 1: Persons sentenced for drug dealing offences[1] England and Wales 2007 to 2009[2, 3]

		Results							
Drug offences	*Year*	*Absolute discharge*	*Conditional discharge*	*Fine*	*Community sentence*	*Suspended sentence*	*Immediate custody*	*Otherwise dealt with*	*Total sentenced*
	2008	0	1	3	14	20	268	2	308
	2009	0	0	0	6	28	210	0	244

[1] Includes offences covering "Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply" and "Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug".
[2] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.
[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[4] In 2004 cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug. In 2009 cannabis was reclassified to a Class B drug. Cannabis data are shown separately in this table and are not also included in the relevant year's Class B or Class C data.

Table 2: Offenders cautioned[1, 2] for drug dealing[3] offences, England and Wales, 2007 to 2009[4]

	Year		
Drug type	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Class A			
Cocaine	146	104	62
Heroin	45	35	29
LSD	6	4	4
MDMA	88	46	31
Crack	23	7	9
Methadone	10	2	10
Methylamphetamine (Crystal Meth)	1	3	-
Other Class A	54	37	41
Total - Class A	373	238	186
Class B			
Amphetamine	50	29	20
Other Class B	8	6	40
Total - Class B	58	35	60
Class C			
Anabolic steroids	1	3	7
Ketamine	15	6	10
Other	78	74	38
Total - Class C	94	83	55
Class Unspecified	29	8	8
Cannabis[5]	553	403	329
Total—All Drug dealing offences	1,107	767	638

[1] The cautions statistics relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been cautioned for two or more offences at the same time the principal offence is the more serious offence.
[2] From 1 June 2000 the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 came into force nationally and removed the use of cautions for persons under 18 and replaced them with reprimands and warnings. These are included in the totals.
[3] Includes offences covering "Possession of a controlled drug with intent to supply" and "Supplying or offering to supply a controlled drug".
[4] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.
[5] In 2004 cannabis was reclassified from a Class B to a Class C drug. In 2009 cannabis was reclassified to a Class B drug. Cannabis data are shown separately in this table and are not also included in the relevant year's Class B or Class C data.

Source:
Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Prosecutions: Northamptonshire

Mr Hollobone: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many *(a)* men and *(b)* women whose last known address was in (i) Kettering borough, (ii) Northamptonshire and (iii) England and Wales were (A) prosecuted, (B) convicted and (C) given a custodial sentence for offences related to non-payment of their television licence fee. [19677]

Mr Blunt: The number of males and females proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts in the Kettering Local Justice Area, the Northamptonshire police force area and England and Wales in 2009 (latest available) for offences under section 363 of the Communications Act 2003 can be viewed in the table.

Figures are for the court in which a defendant was proceeded against as data held on the Court Proceedings Database held by the Ministry of Justice do not identify a defendant's address.

A person cannot be sentenced to a custodial sentence if convicted of an offence under section 363 of the Communications Act 2003. The maximum penalty for not having a valid TV Licence is a £1,000 fine. The court may also order the convicted person to pay for TV Licensing's costs in the proceedings. A person could be sentenced to immediate custody if they refused to pay the fine but not for TV licence evasion.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for television licence evasion[1], by sex, Kettering Local Justice Area, Northamptonshire police force area and England and Wales, 2009[2, 3]

Area	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
England and Wales		
Males	54,706	47,398
Females	111,778	101,099
Persons[4]	166,834	148,780
Of which:		
Northamptonshire police force area		
Males	617	543
Females	1,205	1,120
Persons[4]	1,823	1,663
Of which:		
Kettering Local Justice Area		
Males	81	73
Females	119	113

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for television licence evasion[1], by sex, Kettering Local Justice Area, Northamptonshire police force area and England and Wales, 2009[2]

Area	Proceeded against	Found guilty
Persons[4]	200	186

[1] Includes offences under the Communications Act 2003, section 363.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

[4] Following the introduction of the Libra case management system during 2008, offenders at magistrates courts can now be recorded as sex 'Not stated'. These data have been included in the persons only totals. Therefore, the males and females age group totals and sub-totals may not agree with the totals given under persons.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what proportion of those enrolled on Intensive Alternatives to Custody schemes left a scheme as a result of breaching its conditions in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of such persons received custodial sentences as a consequence; [19394]

(2) what proportion of those enrolled on Intensive Alternative to Custody schemes in the latest period for which figures are available had previously served custodial sentences; [19395]

(3) what actions constitute a breach of the conditions of the Intensive Alternative to Custody Scheme. [19398]

Mr Blunt: At the end of August 2010, a total of 1,501 IAC orders had been imposed since the IAC pilots began in 2008. Of these 1,501 orders, 29.7% (446) have been terminated and the offender re-sentenced. Of those re-sentenced the vast majority, 72% (319), received immediate custodial sentences, with 8% (37) receiving suspended sentences. The remainder have been given or are awaiting another disposal.

Figures for the number of breaches which result in termination of an IAC order and the re-sentencing of an offender are not collected separately. Therefore the figures above also include offenders who have had their order terminated because they have been sentenced for an additional offence committed prior to or following the start of their IAC order. Some of these offenders will therefore have had their IAC order terminated even though they had complied with its conditions.

Information is not collected centrally on previous court disposals for offenders sentenced to an IAC.

IAC orders are imposed using existing legislation and are subject to the same National Standards as all other community orders. If an offender fails to comply twice without providing acceptable evidence they will be in breach within 10 days and returned to court where their IAC order may be revoked and a custodial sentence imposed. Alternatively the court may make the IAC order more onerous to mark the seriousness of the breach.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to extend to all criminal offences his right to appeal against unduly lenient sentences. [19397]

Mr Blunt: The powers for the Attorney-General (and the Solicitor-General) to refer a Crown court sentence to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency are working well. It has been the practice of successive Governments to deal with any proposals to add individual either way offences to the scheme on their own merits. The coalition Government currently have no plans to apply the scheme to all offences.

Sentencing: Transgender

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will issue guidance to *(a)* magistrates and *(b)* judges on the issuing of custodial sentences to (i) transgender people and (ii) people with disabilities. [19492]

Mr Blunt: The courts are independent and cannot be instructed on sentencing by Ministers. Sentencing guidelines are issued by the Sentencing Council for England and Wales. We do of course provide information to ensure that magistrates and judges are informed about the services that are provided by the National Offender Management Service and the Youth Justice Board. Information on the arrangements for meeting the needs of transgender people and people with disabilities in custody will be issued to sentencers.

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps his Department is taking to implement the Government's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities set out in *(a)* Article 12 on equal recognition before the law, *(b)* Article 13 on access to justice, *(c)* Article 14 on liberty and security of the person, *(d)* Article 21 on freedom of expression and opinion and access to information and *(e)* Article 22 on respect for privacy. [17887]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is committed to the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and to improving outcomes for disabled people. The UK Government will report to the UN Committee in July 2011 setting out how implementation has been achieved across Government.

A number of measures exist or are being taken forward by MoJ which support various Convention Articles, for example:

The aims and principles of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, which came into force in October 2007, are in line with those of the UN Convention and the Act's measures are supportive of many of the Convention's requirements;

The support provided to disabled people who go to court, e.g. through provision of BSL interpreters, hearing loop systems, Braille signage, visits to court to enable a person to familiarise themselves prior to court hearings, provision of information in alternative formats upon request; special measures to assist certain vulnerable witnesses give evidence in criminal proceedings;

The Hate Crime Strategy (jointly with Home Office) aimed at reducing hate crime, including disability hate crime, supporting victims and bringing offenders to justice;

The framework for the management of prisoners with disabilities which aims to ensure that all prisoners, with reasonable adjustment, have access to all aspects of prison life.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Alcoholic Drinks: Prices

Paul Maynard: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she expects the outcomes of her Department's study on *(a)* the links between alcohol pricing and crime, *(b)* the economic impact of alcohol price interventions on industry and *(c)* public understanding of and views on alcohol price interventions to be published. [19456]

James Brokenshire: We are aiming to publish all three reports as part of the Government's review of alcohol pricing and taxation later this year.

Animal Welfare

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department is taking to ensure that personnel working with animals in establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 are trained and competent following the transposition into domestic law of the EU Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes; and if she will make a statement. [18797]

Lynne Featherstone: The Council of the European Union adopted a revised text as its first reading position in June 2010. The European Parliament approved the Council's first reading position on 8 September 2010. This brought negotiation of the new European Union directive to an end. The final text will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shortly and will enter into force 20 days later. Member states will have two years to transpose its provisions into national legislation which must be implemented from 1 January 2013.

I am not yet in a position to comment on the arrangements for the training and competence of personnel working with animals in establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 following the transposition of the EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes into domestic law. A detailed assessment of the provisions of the new directive is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what effects on the level of protection given to pre-hatch birds used in experimental procedures the transposition into domestic law of the EU directive on the protection of animals used in scientific procedures will have. [18798]

Lynne Featherstone: The Council of the European Union adopted a revised text as its first reading position in June 2010. The European Parliament approved the Council's first reading position on 8 September 2010. This brought negotiation of the new European Union directive to an end. The final text will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shortly and will enter into force 20 days later. Member states will have two years to transpose its provisions into national legislation which must be implemented from 1 January 2013.

I am not yet in a position to comment whether there will be any changes to the protection given to pre-hatch birds used in experimental procedures resulting from the transposition of the EU directive on the protection of animals used in scientific procedures into United Kingdom legislation. A detailed assessment of the provisions of the new directive is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many procedures have been licensed which were deemed likely to cause severe pain or distress to animals that could not be alleviated in each of the last three years. [18799]

Lynne Featherstone: At no time have procedures been licensed under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 which were deemed likely to cause severe pain or distress to animals that cannot be alleviated. This is not permissible under the 1986 Act.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she intends to transpose into domestic law the derogation within the EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes allowing the use of procedures involving severe pain, suffering or distress to animals that is likely to be long-lasting and cannot be ameliorated. [18800]

Lynne Featherstone: The Council of the European Union adopted a revised text as its first reading position in June 2010. The European Parliament approved the Council's first reading position on 8 September 2010. This brought negotiation of the new European Union directive to an end. The final text will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shortly and will enter into force 20 days later. Member states will have two years to transpose its provisions into national legislation which must be implemented from 1 January 2013.

I am not yet in a position to comment on the transposition into domestic law of the derogation within the EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes allowing the use of procedures involving severe pain, suffering or distress to animals that is likely to be long-lasting and cannot be ameliorated. A detailed assessment of the provisions of the new directive is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspections of establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 were carried out by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate in 2009. [18801]

Lynne Featherstone: During 2009 the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate carried out 1,994 visits to establishments designated under the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 and of visits specifically to animal units 70% were made without notice.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department in which areas she plans to opt to maintain the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 for safeguarding animal welfare where they are more restrictive than those that will be required within the EU Directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. [18803]

Lynne Featherstone: The Council of the European Union adopted a revised text as its first reading position in June 2010. The European Parliament approved the Council's first reading position on 8 September 2010. This brought negotiation of the new European Union directive to an end. The final text will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shortly and will enter into force 20 days later. Member states will have two years to transpose its provisions into national legislation which must be implemented from 1 January 2013.

I am not yet in a position to comment on plans to maintain the provisions of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act 1986 for safeguarding animal welfare where they are stricter than those that will be required within the EU directive on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes. A detailed assessment of the provisions of the new directive is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the implications of the implementation on the European Directive on the Protection of Animals Used for Scientific Procedures for the *(a)* role and *(b)* future funding of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. [19073]

Lynne Featherstone: The Council of the European Union adopted a revised text as its first reading position in June 2010. The European Parliament approved the Council's first reading position on 8 September 2010. This brought negotiation of the new European Union directive to an end. The final text will be published in the *Official Journal of the European Union* shortly and will enter into force 20 days later. Member states will have two years to transpose its provisions into national legislation which must be implemented from 1 January 2013.

I am not yet in a position to comment on the implications of the new directive for the future role and funding of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate. A detailed assessment of the provisions of the new directive is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Borders: Personal Records

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the change in security clearance requirements for personnel working on the e-Borders programme resulted in an extension to the time taken to deliver the programme. [19713]

Damian Green: The change in security clearance requirements for personnel from the Service Provider working on the e-Borders Programme did not result in a time extension for the programme.

Citizenship

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many people *(a)* applied for and *(b)* were granted UK citizenship in (i) each year since 1997 and (ii) each of the last eight quarters for which figures are available; and how many people of each nationality were granted citizenship in (A) 1997 and (B) the most recent year for which figures are available. [19609]

Damian Green: Data covering applications for and grants of British citizenship in the United Kingdom for the years 1997 to 2009 were published in supplementary table A of the Home Office statistical bulletin 'British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009' while figures for the eight quarters ending quarter 2 2010 were published in table 4.7 of the 'Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom April-June 2010'.

Data for quarter 3 2010 are scheduled for publication on 25 November 2010.

Grants of British citizenship for 1997 and 2009 by the applicants' previous nationality were published in supplementary table C of 'British Citizenship Statistics United Kingdom, 2009'.

Both of these Home Office statistical publications are available from the Library of the House and from the Home Office Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

Entry Clearances: Employment

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on implementation of the proposal for a directive on the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the purpose of seasonal employment (COM (2010) 379; Council Doc. 12208/10); and if she will make a statement. [19180]

Damian Green *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The United Kingdom is not opting into this proposal.

Equality Act 2010

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she has taken to assess the effect on small businesses of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [18892]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality Act 2010 updates and streamlines the equality legislation from the last four decades. It replaces nine different pieces of legislation with a modern and accessible framework, simplifying the law, making it more consistent and therefore reducing the burden on business.

The impact assessment for the Equality Act 2010 examines the effect on business of the various provisions contained in the Act. The effect on small and medium enterprises is identified but there has been no separate assessment for small businesses. The impact assessment which was published in April 2010 and is available in the House Library and from the Government Equalities Office website.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate her Department has made of the cost to small businesses of implementation of the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [18893]

Lynne Featherstone: The Equality Act 2010 updates and streamlines the equality legislation from the last four decades. It replaces nine different pieces of legislation with a modern and accessible framework, simplifying the law, making it more consistent and therefore reducing the burden on business.

The impact assessment for the Equality Act 2010 estimates the cost to business of the various provisions contained in the Act. Costs to small and medium enterprises are identified but there has been no separate assessment for small businesses. The impact assessment was published in April 2010 and is available in the House Library and from the Government Equalities Office website.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will estimate the number of cases expected to be brought against employers arising from the provisions of the Equality Act 2010. [18894]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 636W. A copy of the impact assessment for the Equality Act 2010 is available in the Library or the Government Equalities Office website at:

http://www.equalities.gov.uk/pdf/Equality%20Act%20Impact.pdf

The Equality Act 2010 updates and streamlines the equality legislation that has built up over the last four decades. It replaces nine different pieces of legislation with a modern and accessible framework, simplifying the law, making it easier for people to understand their rights and responsibilities and comply.

Identity and Passport Service

Hugh Bayley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* staff are employed and *(b)* people were interviewed in the last 12 months at each of the Identity and Passport Service Interview Offices which are (i) proposed to be closed and (ii) expected to remain open. [19612]

Damian Green: The following table sets out the requested information. Just over 300,000 interviews were carried out in the last 12 months. Of these, 77% were conducted at interview offices which the Identity and Passport Service (IPS) propose to keep open and a further 8% were conducted at offices which IPS propose to replace with mobile interview teams within the same local area.

Office	*Staff number (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff number (headcount)*	*Number interviewed (between w/e 4 October 2009 to w/e 26 September 2010 inc.)*	*Comments*
Recommended to close				
Aberdeen	4.38	6	1,907	Recommended to close
Armagh	2.29	5	1,008	Recommended to close
Bournemouth	5.04	6	2,632	Recommended to close
Brighton	7.25	8	4,082	Recommended to close
Cheltenham	4.5	5	2,667	Recommended to close
Exeter	3.75	5	2,625	Recommended to close
Ipswich	5.5	6	2,463	Recommended to close
Kendal	3	4	1,215	Recommended to close
Kings Lynn	2.75	6	901	Recommended to close
Lincoln	6.29	8	2,743	Recommended to close
Middlesbrough	8	8	3,689	Recommended to close
Northampton	6	7	4,395	Recommended to close
Oxford	4.53	5	3,626	Recommended to close
Ripon	1.08	4	601	Recommended to close
Selkirk	1.12	4	292	Recommended to close
Shrewsbury	2.69	4	1,995	Recommended to close
St Austell	4	7	1,644	Recommended to close
Stoke	5.5	6	3,632	Recommended to close
Swindon	2.69	4	2,015	Recommended to close
York	4.35	6	1,845	Recommended to close
Total	84.71	114	45,977	
Replaced by mobile team in same location				
Aberystwyth	1.56	4	573	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Carlisle	2.5	5	1,267	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Coleraine	3.96	6	1,297	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Dundee	4.5	5	2,273	Replaced by mobile team in same location

Office	*Staff number (full-time equivalent)*	*Staff number (headcount)*	*Number interviewed (between w/e 4 October 2009 to w/e 26 September 2010 inc.)*	*Comments*
Hull	6.5	7	2,919	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Inverness	3.29	7	854	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Newport IOW	1.08	3	516	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Norwich	6	7	2,824	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Swansea	7	8	3,569	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Warwick	4.12	6	3,199	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Wick	0.81	3	159	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Wrexham	4.97	6	2,901	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Yeovil	3	4	1,738	Replaced by mobile team in same location
Total	49.29	71	24,089	
Recommended to remain open				
Belfast	5.76	8	3,922	Recommended to remain open
Birmingham	19.25	22	20,870	Recommended to remain open
Blackburn	8.5	10	6,970	Recommended to remain open
Bristol	6.46	8	5,070	Recommended to remain open
Chelmsford	8.5	10	10,189	Recommended to remain open
Crawley	7.25	8	6,656	Recommended to remain open
Derby	9.97	12	7,119	Recommended to remain open
Edinburgh	6.15	8	3,988	Recommended to remain open
Glasgow	15.85	20	9,794	Recommended to remain open
Leeds	11	11	11,198	Recommended to remain open
Leicester	7	8	6,073	Recommended to remain open
Liverpool	13.8	18	9,059	Recommended to remain open
London	45.69	51	55,223	Recommended to remain open
Luton	10.5	13	13,268	Recommended to remain open
Maidstone	8	9	6,816	Recommended to remain open
Manchester	15	17	13,639	Recommended to remain open
Newcastle	12.5	16	6,798	Recommended to remain open
Newport	7.79	9	5,975	Recommended to remain open
Peterborough	4.98	7	3,892	Recommended to remain open
Plymouth	4.5	5	1,926	Recommended to remain open
Portsmouth	6.51	8	4,801	Recommended to remain open
Reading	8.27	9	11,830	Recommended to remain open
Sheffield	11.75	13	7,292	Recommended to remain open
Total	255	300	232,368	
Grand total	389	485	302,434	

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the likely effect on the number of removals of illegal immigrants of the planned reduction in returns awards. [19067]

Damian Green: During the past year we have made a number of changes to our return schemes for illegal immigrants. Our schemes include Voluntary Assisted Return and Reintegration Programme (VARRP), Assisted Voluntary Return for Irregular Migrants scheme (AVRIM), Assisted Voluntary Return for Families and Children (AVRFC).

We have also made changes to the Facilitated Returns Scheme for Foreign National Prisoners.

Although the impact of the changes to these return schemes is unknown at this time, it is anticipated that the schemes will continue to significant illegal immigrant and foreign national prisoner removals in 2010.

Immigration

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many applications from UK residents returning to the UK from *(a)* Canada, *(b)* Australia and *(c)* New Zealand in the last year for which information is available were (i) approved and (ii) rejected. [19601]

Damian Green: The information requested by my hon. Friend with regard to the number of returning resident applications approved and rejected for the period July 2009 to June 2010 for Canada, Australia and New Zealand is shown in the following table:

July 2009 to June 2010 stats on returning resident from Australia, Canada and New Zealand

Country	*Issued*	*Refused*
Australia	11	6
Canada	0	9
New Zealand	0	0

Note:
These data are based on Management Information and is therefore provisional and subject to change.

A returning resident is a resident who has left the UK for no longer than two years and who wishes to return to live in the UK permanently.

Law Enforcement Agencies: Assets

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the average annual monetary value of assets seized by law enforcement agencies in the UK; and what proportion of the monetary value of such assets was reallocated to law enforcement in the latest year for which figures are available. [19059]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office received a total of £150 million of criminal assets in 2009-10 after receivers' fees had been deducted. Under the current Asset Recovery Incentivisation Scheme half of all assets recovered are returned to law enforcement agencies involved in the asset recovery process, including the police, Crown Prosecution Service and HM Courts Service.

In 2009-10, £75 million was returned to front line agencies.

National Border Targeting Centre

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether changing the location of the National Border Targeting Centre resulted in an extension in the time taken to deliver the e-Borders programme; and if she will make a statement. [19712]

Damian Green: The change in location of the National Border Targeting Centre did not affect the time scale for delivering the e-Borders programme.

Passports: Biometrics

Mr Meacher: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will re-tender the e-passport contract; and if she will consider the merits of the proposal by 3M in respect of the cost of fulfilling the contract over the next 10 years. [18842]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* Following your meeting with me on 15 September 2010, the position remains the same and the e-passport contract will not be re-tendered.

Subsequent correspondence associated with the meeting confirms that the merits of 3M's proposal have been carefully considered, and I can therefore see no objective or convincing arguments to justify changing the contractual relationship with De La Rue at this juncture.

Passports: Fraud

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many fraudulent passports were seized in the UK in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [19249]

Damian Green: The following table details the detections of false passports encountered by the Immigration and Nationality Directorate of the Home Office (before 31 March 2007), the Border and Immigration Agency (between 1 April 2007 and 31 March 2008) and the UK Border Agency (since 1 April 2008).

	Number
2007	6,939
2008	5,960
2009	4,621

The figures detail detections at the border and those made in country by caseworking offices and enforcement officers. They do not include the numbers of inadequately documented passengers denied boarding by commercial carriers overseas working in conjunction with UK immigration liaison officers and managers (formerly airline liaison officers). Some of these passengers will have held false documents but precise figures for the numbers denied boarding for this reason are unavailable.

Trusted Borders Consortium

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times *(a)* she and her predecessor and *(b)* the Permanent Secretary of her Department have met representatives from each of the companies in Trusted Borders Consortium in the last 12 months. [18106]

Damian Green *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The Trusted Borders Consortium was made up of Raytheon Systems Limited (prime), Accenture, Detica, Serco, QinetiQ, Steria, and Capgemini.

Meetings in the last 12 months were held as follows:

4 February 2010—Former Home Secretary Alan Johnson met Dawn Elaine, a Contract Director with Serco.

19 April 2010—the Permanent Secretary met Lord Geoffrey Filkin and Tom Riall of Serco.

Visas

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many visas of each type were issued to Mongolian nationals in each of the last 24 months; and what the average time taken was between receipt of application and decision for such visas issued in each such month. [19271]

Damian Green *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The number of visas issued by month during the period July 2008 to June 2010 to Mongolians in each entry clearance endorsement category are shown in Table A. Table B shows the average time taken (in working days) to resolve an application in each entry clearance endorsement category in each month between July 2008 and June 2010.

The UK Border Agency has agreed customer service standards for processing visa applications. These are:

to conclude 90% of non-settlement applications within three weeks, 98% within six weeks and 100% within 12 weeks; and

to conclude 95% of settlement applications within 12 weeks and 100% within 24 weeks.

A guide to recent processing times for applications lodged at each of the UK Border Agency's visa application centres overseas is available on its website at:

www.ukba.homeoffice.gov.uk/visas

Table A: Number of visas issued to Mongolian nationals by endorsement category

	2008						*2009*					
Endorsement category	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*
EEA Family Permits	0	2	3	4	3	1	—	1	1	3	2	2
Family Visit	30	23	35	26	21	43	33	33	22	36	38	45
Other Non Settlement	12	1	12	2	1	2	6	2	—	5	1	3
Other Visitor	75	51	78	65	48	70	47	65	50	94	81	132
PBS Tier 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	0	1
PBS Tier 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	0
PBS Tier 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	2	5
PBS Tier 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	11	2
Settlement	2	3	4	5	2	1	2	4	4	3	0	2
Student	25	56	63	29	25	12	58	21	20	19	8	3
Transit	—	1	0	0	0	2	—	2	0	1	1	3
Work permit	1		0	0	1	1	—	0	0	0	—	—
Overall issued	145	137	195	131	101	132	146	128	97	161	145	198

	2009						*2010*					
Endorsement category	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*
EEA Family Permits	4	—	—	2	0	2	2	3	3	0	1	1
Family Visit	47	17	43	17	38	42	35	23	19	32	42	21
Other Non Settlement	1	1	1	3	32	6	3	4	—	8	4	4
Other Visitor	75	47	76	78	122	55	49	47	67	64	72	124
PBS Tier 1	1	1	1	—	5	0	1	0	0	0	1	—
PBS Tier 2	—	1	—	0	1	—	0	1	—	1	—	0
PBS Tier 4	27	54	57	29	8	18	8	48	4	4	3	10
PBS Tier 5	1	0	0	1	0	0	1	1	2	—	1	2
Settlement	1	0	3	1	1	0	3	2	0	1	—2	1
Student	2	4	3	1	4	6	3	1	0	0	0	0
Transit	1	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	0	1
Work permit	—	1	1	0	0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Overall issued	160	126	185	132	211	129	105	130	95	110	126	164

Table B: Average working days taken to resolve an application by endorsement category

	2008						*2009*					
Endorsement category	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*
EEA Family Permits	—	6	1	2	1	3	—	0	6	14	11	6
Family Visit	5	7	6	10	6	3	7	2	5	3	4	2
HSMP	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Non Settlement	8	0	4	2	4	2	6	4	—	4	3	3
Other Visitor	4	3	4	3	5	3	7	4	3	4	4	3
PBS Tier 1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	2	1	1
PBS Tier 2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	—
PBS Tier 4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	3	4	6
PBS Tier 5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	4	8
Settlement	26	24	7	47	8	—	12	67	21	2	—	2
Student	5	7	7	4	5	3	10	5	6	10	8	3
Transit	—	0	10	—	—	2	—	1	—	1	2	1
Work permit	2	—	—	11	4	7	—	2	—	—	—	—

	2009						*2010*					
Endorsement category	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*
EEA Family Permits	2	—	—	2	0	3	1	2	4	—	23	36
Family Visit	5	3	5	2	6	4	7	5	7	12	9	7
HSMP	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Other Non Settlement	2	2	12	4	1	2	2	2	—	15	3	2
Other Visitor	4	5	2	5	2	4	4	4	3	6	6	4
PBS Tier 1	—	2	9	—	2	—	3	—	4	—	3	—
PBS Tier 2	—	8	—	—	0	—	—	4	—	8	—	—
PBS Tier 4	10	5	5	4	8	13	17	41	41	83	19	48
PBS Tier 5	15	—	—	5	—	—	3	1	0	—	0	3
Settlement	11	28	12	44	10	20	14	5	0	24	9	33
Student	—	3	0	—	—	3	26	—	—	67	—	3

	2009						2010					
Endorsement category	*July*	*Aug*	*Sept*	*Oct*	*Nov*	*Dec*	*Jan*	*Feb*	*Mar*	*Apr*	*May*	*June*
Transit	3	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	11
Work permit	—	3	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

Source:
CRS. Run date 21 October 2010.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

West Lothian Question

4. **Mr Evennett:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister when he plans to establish a commission to consider the West Lothian question; and if he will make a statement. [19219]

Mr Harper: We aim to announce our plans for a commission by the end of the year.

Political Reform

7. **Jo Swinson:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what plans he has to take account of diversity in political representation in his political reform proposals; and if he will make a statement. [19222]

The Deputy Prime Minister: The Government are committed to tackling the barriers preventing under-represented groups from participating in political life. We are developing proposals to introduce extra support for disabled people and our other proposed reforms give us the opportunity to help ensure that politics is representative of the communities it serves.

Electoral Register

8. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent assessment he has made of the accuracy of the electoral register. [19224]

Mr Harper: The Government have not made such an assessment. However, the Electoral Commission in its March 2010 report 'The completeness and accuracy of electoral registers in Great Britain' found:

> "... it is likely that the accuracy of the registers remains broadly similar to past decades"

and that:

> "... the major source of inaccuracy remains electors moving home and not informing the relevant Electoral Registration Officer (ERO)".

It is clear that more can be done to support accuracy. To this end, the Government have announced the implementation of individual electoral registration from 2014, which will ensure that only those entitled to vote will get on the register, so bringing greater protection against electoral fraud.

Elections

Ann McKechin: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister if he will bring forward legislative proposals to put the Interim Electoral Management Board for Scotland on a statutory basis in respect of elections which remain the responsibility of the UK Government. [19620]

Mr Harper: The Scottish Government introduced the Local Electoral Administration (Scotland) Bill in the Scottish Parliament on Thursday 7 October. The Bill includes provisions to allow for the Electoral Management Board to be established in statute as an independent body, representing Returning Officers and Electoral Registration Officers. Its convenor will have a statutory power of direction over Returning Officers who are in charge of Scottish Local Government elections.

The Government intend to devolve responsibility for the administration of the Scottish Parliament elections to the Scottish Government in accordance with the recommendations of the Calman Commission. It will be then for the Scottish Government to decide whether they wish to put the Interim Electoral Management Board on a statutory basis for that election.

For European Parliamentary elections a Regional Returning Officer (RRO) is appointed. The RRO has a power of direction over the local Returning Officer in his or her region. There are no plans at this stage to bring forward legislation to put the Interim Management Board for Scotland on a statutory basis in respect of elections which are the responsibility of the UK Government. However, we will keep the position under review.

Elections: Fraud

Paul Uppal: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what steps the Government are taking to reduce the level of electoral fraud by personation. [19005]

Mr Harper: The available evidence suggests that current instances of personation are relatively low. Data are not as yet available for the 2010 UK General Election, though the report by the Electoral Commission and the Association of Chief Police Officers, Analysis of allegations of electoral malpractice at the June 2009 elections, found that there were 13 cases of personation at the June 2009 elections. These figures should be put in the context that more than 22 million votes were cast in the June 2009 elections across the United Kingdom.

The Government are committed to tackling electoral fraud and have announced that it will legislate to bring Individual Electoral Registration into force in 2014, ahead of the next general election. Individual Electoral Registration will require each voter to register individually and to provide three personal identifiers; signature, date of birth and National Insurance Number, the last two of which will be cross checked with the Department for Work and Pensions before anyone is added to the electoral register. This will make the electoral register more accurate and more secure, and thus should strengthen the integrity of the voting process at elections.

The Electoral Commission's report on the administration of the May 2010 General Election published in July explained that the Commission had worked with the Association of Chief Police Officers to ensure that cases of alleged electoral malpractice reported to the police have been consistently and comprehensively recorded across the UK since the beginning of 2010. The Electoral Commission will publish verified data and analysis on the extent and nature of cases of electoral malpractice at the General Election in January 2011.

We will consider the Electoral Commission's report carefully when it is published together with what action may be necessary to address any issues that may highlighted by the report.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Argentina: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of Argentina on fossil fuel subsidy reform. [19312]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of fossil fuel subsidy reform was discussed with the Government of Argentina during the Group of Twenty summit in Toronto in June.

Capita

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many contracts his Department has with Capita; and how much it has paid to Capita under such contracts in 2010-11 to date. [18625]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) has no current contracts with Capita and as a result, no payments have been made to them this financial year.

FCO Services, a Trading Fund of the FCO has six contracts with Capita. As a Trading Fund, FCO Services uses Capita under a Government procurement framework which allows it to acquire specific skills and resources on a flexible basis as and when the commercial need arises and only where it judges this option to be better value for money than to permanently recruit staff with those skills. It has spent £394,073 in 2010-11 to date.

Departmental Press: Subscriptions

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16225]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office introduced a new financial accounting system in March 2004 therefore the figures given for the period before 2004-05 have been collected on a different basis from the subsequent period. From 2004 onwards, the costs quoted are worldwide spend and include monies spent on electronic subscriptions to enable staff based in the UK and our posts worldwide to access a range of different media.

Financial year	£
1997-98	489,895
1998-99	586,510
1999-2000	566,067
2000-01	588,078
2001-02	590,721
2002-03	608,401
2003-04	[1]—
2004-05	2,101,892
2005-06	1,747,126
2006-07	2,221,786
2007-08	3,207,113
2008-09	1,973,251
2009-10	2,436,547

[1] Not held.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans he has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by his Department as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [18196]

Alistair Burt: Following the announcement of the spending review, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office will ensure that we fulfil our statutory requirements when considering any decisions that may potentially impact our workforce or the services we provide to British nationals.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office is committed to meeting our equality duties and will take appropriate and reasonable action to meet our obligations.

Departmental Spending

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what estimate he has made of his Department's programme spending on *(a)* counter-terrorism and *(b)* Afghan counter-narcotics programmes in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [19686]

(2) what estimate he has made of his Department's programme spending in support of counter-proliferation in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15; [19687]

(3) what estimate he has made of his Department's programme spending on human rights and democracy in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [19688]

Mr Hague: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not yet set its budgets for 2011-12 or future years. We will be deciding on allocations in the light of the recent Spending Round Settlement.

Departmental Travel

Mike Gapes: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what budget has been set for travel by Ministers in his Department in 2010-11. [18141]

Alistair Burt: The budget set for both UK and Overseas travel for 2010-11 is as follows:

Office of:	£
Henry Bellingham	97,470
Jeremy Browne	79,200
Secretary of State	1,082,830
David Lidington	77,590

Office of:	£
Alistair Burt	127,665
Lord Howell of Guildford	42,653

It is essential for Ministers to travel throughout the global network to attend high level talks, conferences and negotiations. Budgets have been set to reflect the demands of each Minister's portfolio. Distance and frequency of travel both impact on the costs incurred.

Any expenditure incurred on official travel is kept under rigorous scrutiny to ensure value for money and effectiveness and is incurred in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity, Propriety and Value for Money.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18410]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. member to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office website where this information is already available for UK based senior officials:

http://www.fco.gov.uk/en/about-us/publications-and-documents/publications1/annual-reports/senior-staff-expenses/

Information for overseas-based senior officials is not held in this format and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Developing Countries: Fossil fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans his Department has for discussions on fossil fuel subsidy reform with other governments; and if he will make a statement. [19031]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of fossil fuel subsidy reform was discussed by G20 Finance Ministers on 22 October. The issue will also be discussed at the G20 summit in Seoul in November, where the G20 will review the progress made to implement the national commitments to reduce fossil fuel subsidies.

Fossil Fuels: India

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Government of India on fossil fuel subsidy reform. [19032]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of fossil fuel subsidy reform was discussed with the Government of India during the G20 summit in Toronto in June.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18766]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My Department and its non-departmental public bodies are committed to the defence and promotion of international human rights. We ensure that our work is conducted with respect to our obligations under domestic, European and international law. Resources expended on this area are within the context of our normal work, but an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

Ilois: Resettlement

Peter Bottomley: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what representations he has received from the US administration on resettlement of the outer Chagos islands; when such representations were last received *(a)* in public and *(b)* in private; what the rank was of the official who made such representations; and on what occasion he most recently discussed the issue with his US counterpart. [19238]

Mr Bellingham: The use of the British Indian Ocean Territory (BIOT) including Diego Garcia is regulated by a series of bilateral agreements between the UK and US. The 1966 Exchange of Notes provides that the whole of the territory shall be available for defence purposes.

The US Administration have regularly made clear their concerns about the possible restoration of a settled civilian population in the territory. Letters dated November 2004 and January 2006 from the State Department confirming this position have been made available to the UK courts.

US concerns over the implications of resettlement of the outer islands were most recently confirmed in October during the annual UK/US Political-Military talks on BIOT when US officials set out the US Government's position.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I have not discussed the issue directly with our US counterparts.

Religious Freedom: Christianity

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of which countries he has received reports of attacks on Christians in the last three months; and what discussions he has had on this issue with his counterpart in each such country. [19494]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government condemn all instances of violence and discrimination against individuals and groups because of their faith or belief. Our overseas missions monitor human rights in their host countries, raise our concerns about individual cases and lobby for changes in discriminatory practices and laws.

My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary, Foreign and Commonwealth Office Ministers and senior officials regularly raise human rights, including freedom of religion and belief.

Examples over the last three months include in Morocco, where our ambassador to Morocco raised concerns with the Moroccan Minister of Foreign Affairs over the expulsion of 16 British nationals for alleged proselytising; in Pakistan, where the Minister for South Asia raised the issue of persecution of religious minorities with the Pakistan Federal Minister of Minorities; and in Burma where, following reports of attacks on Christian communities in Karen and Chin State, embassy officials met with representatives of these groups. Our ambassador to Burma also recently raised human rights concerns directly with the Burmese military Government.

Turkey: Trials

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what observers from the UK Embassy in Turkey have been present at the trial of Kurdish defendants in Diyarbakir which began on 18 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [19603]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Ankara is monitoring the Diyarbakir trial, but has not sent any observers to attend the proceedings. This is being kept under review and the embassy has not ruled out sending observers to the trial at a later date.

The trial has been monitored by Turkish and international media, UK parliamentarians (including the hon. Member himself) and non-governmental organisations. We expect high legal and judicial standards to be observed throughout the trial.

UN Security Council

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what plans Ministers in his Department have to participate in the Ministerial level debate on women, peace and security in the UN Security Council on 26 October 2010; and if he will make a statement. [19798]

Mr Bellingham: Our ambassador to the United Nations will represent the UK at the debate on Women, Peace and Security at the UN Security Council today, 26 October 2010.

The UK remains a leading supporter of UN Security Council Resolution 1325. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary is committed to working for the protection of women in conflict and their participation in conflict resolution.

We will shortly launch our national action plan that sets out how the Government will integrate Women, Peace and Security into our core activity in conflict affected states. This includes specific action plans for priority countries, including Afghanistan and the Democratic Republic of Congo.

UN Women

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what estimate he has made of the cost to the United Nations of the establishment of the post of Head of United Nations Women. [19493]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The proposed budget for UN Women has not yet been published. We expect an announcement on funding, including for the Under-Secretary-General to head the agency, within the next few weeks.

The UK fully supports the establishment of UN Women, a powerful new body to deliver real change for the world's women.

CABINET OFFICE

Absent Voting: General Election 2010

Simon Wright: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office in which 10 parliamentary constituencies the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest proportion of the electorate were issued with postal vote ballot papers for the 2010 general election; and what the proportion of the electorate was in each case. [19127]

Mr Harper: The 2010 General Election: aspects of participation and administration, prepared for the Electoral Commission by the elections centre at the university of Plymouth, finds that at the May 2010 general election the 10 parliamentary constituencies in which the *(a)* lowest and *(b)* highest proportion of the electorate were issued with postal vote ballot papers were as follows:

Lowest proportion of the electorate issued with postal vote ballot papers

Parliamentary Constituency	*Percentage issued with postal vote*
Brent Central	7.7
Birmingham Erdington	7.7
Motherwell and Wishaw	7.5
Birmingham Perry Barr	7.4
Cambridgeshire North East	7.4
Ealing North	7.1
Hull West and Hessle	7.1
Lewisham West and Penge	6.8
Hull East	6.7
Hull North	5.9

Highest proportion of the electorate issued with postal vote ballot papers

Parliamentary Constituency	*Percentage issued with postal vote*
Newcastle Upon Tyne North	40.6
Houghton and Sunderland South	38.9
Sunderland Central	37.4
Washington and Sunderland West	37.2
South Shields	36.2
Jarrow	35.3
Blyth Valley	34.8
Stevenage	34.5
Newcastle Upon Tyne Central	34.5
Telford	31.8

Departmental Contracts

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what the monetary value is of contracts his Department has awarded to each *(a)* management consultancy and *(b)* IT company since 7 May 2010. [16184]

Mr Maude: It is not possible to report on lifetime contract values awarded during this period without incurring disproportionate costs.

However, the accounting system shows the following in-year values for contracts awarded between 7 May and 18 October of the corresponding financial year:

		£
	Value awarded for:	
	FY2010-11	*FY2009-10*
Consultancy	1,255,146	5,089,068
IT	2,217,564	12,078,974

A breakdown of those data by supplier will be placed in the Library of the House.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18733]

Mr Maude: The number of officials who were subject to serious and gross misconduct is set out in the table. There are no complete records held centrally about minor misconduct as these cases are devolved to local unit managers. To obtain this information would represent a disproportionate cost. There is no information held about disciplinary cases before 2004.

	Disciplined	*Removed*	*Transferred*	*Number Dismissed*
2010	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2009	7	0	0	[1]—
2008	9	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
2007	6	0	0	[1]—
2006	[1]—	0	0	0
2005	[1]—	0	0	[1]—
2004	8	0	0	[1]—

[1] Less than 5—The policy of the Cabinet Office is to withhold data which could identify an individual.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18731]

Mr Maude: The Department only holds the information requested from 2003.

The following table details the amount paid in non-consolidated awards to officials, how many officials received such awards and the largest 20 payments made in the Cabinet Office for the years 2003 to 2009 is detailed as follows:

	Paid in	*Number of officials who received a payment*	*Total paid in non-consolidated awards (£)*	*Value of largest 20 payments made (£)*
2008-09	2009-10	788	1,769,265	15,000 12,500 10,000 9,000
2007-08	2008-09	745	1,745,118	24,000 22,000 20,000 17,500 15,000 12,000
2006-07	2007-08	884	1,750,242	18,000 15,000 13,000 9,000
2005-06	2006-07	809	1,608,000	16,000 12,500 8,500
2004-05	2005-06	867	1,402,000	[1]—
2003-04[1]	2004-05	838	1,225,802	[1]—

[1] Information not available

There are also a small number of staff who received in-year non-consolidated awards over this period. These decisions are delegated to line managers and as such the total cost is not held centrally and would be available only at disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18732]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office uses pay allowances as a cost effective way to recruit and retain staff to posts that require specialist skills or long or un-social hours. Allowances are non-consolidated monthly payments which are paid in lieu of a consolidated increase to basic salary and cease when staff move from qualifying posts.

The monetary value of allowance payments to staff in the Cabinet Office for the financial year 2009 to 2010 was £1.2 million.

Prior to 1 April 2009 the Department did not report on the value of allowance payments separately on payroll and as such providing information on the value of allowances for each year between 1997 and 2009 would be at a disproportionate cost.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18734]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office sick absence data are published on the Cabinet Office website at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/about-cabinet-office/plans-performance/absence.aspx

The specific information requested is not held centrally and to obtain it would represent a disproportionate cost.

Emergency Planning College

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Emergency College at Hawkhills in training people to deal with major flooding events. [19142]

Mr Maude: The effectiveness of the training delivered at the Emergency Planning College is subject to continuous assessment within its quality regime, which includes both post-course and in-employment measurement. The average quality rating over the past year has exceeded 80%, which reflects a very high degree of customer satisfaction with all aspects of the training. The college's quality system was subject to detailed audit as part of its 'Skillsmark' Recognition in 2009, and is consistent with accepted best practice in adult education and training.

The college does not deliver courses that specifically cover the management of major floods. Our resilience training policy rests on EPC delivering generic individual training, which underpins scenario-specific collective training and exercises conducted by local resilience forums. The scenarios and training priorities depend on the nature of the assessed local risks, with flooding featuring prominently in many areas.

Employment: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of St Albans constituency is employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [19690]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of St Albans constituency is employed by the (a) public and (b) private sector. (19690)

Public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey. On this basis, in the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, 79 per cent of the working population of the St Albans constituency were employed by the private sector, with the remaining 21 per cent employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18730]

Mr Maude: Cabinet Office policies and processes comply with domestic, European and international human rights requirements. No assessment has been made as to the cost and to do so now would represent a disproportionate cost.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Victims of Crime: Assistance

7. **Julian Smith:** To ask the Attorney-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to increase its level of assistance to victims of crime. [19337]

The Solicitor-General: There is a network of joint police and CPS Witness Care Units, whose role is to provide support to victims and witnesses in the criminal justice system. Additional training has recently been provided to the Witness Care Units and recent reports and surveys reveal that more than 80% of victims and witnesses are now satisfied with their experience of the criminal justice system.

Dr Daniel Ubani

8. **Stephen Barclay:** To ask the Attorney-General what reviews the Crown Prosecution Service has conducted of its handling of the case of Dr Daniel Ubani; and if he will make a statement. [19338]

The Attorney-General: The hon. Member will be aware that the failure to extradite Dr Ubani from Germany was attributable to the prosecution of Dr Ubani in Germany for the offence in Cambridgeshire, without consultation with the CPS. There have, therefore, been no reviews of the handling of the case by the CPS. However there has been a meeting in The Hague, with the assistance of Eurojust, between German prosecutors, the CPS and the Cambridgeshire police to address the issues raised and seek good practice in the future.

Cases Awaiting Trial

9. **David Tredinnick:** To ask the Attorney-General what discussions the Crown Prosecution Service has had with the Ministry of Justice on steps to reduce the number of cases awaiting trial. [19339]

The Attorney-General: There are regular discussions between the Crown Prosecution Service and the Ministry of Justice, particularly Her Majesty's Courts Service, on performance issues, including reducing the number of cases awaiting trial.

These include regular discussions at chief executive and chief operating officer level; at a local level between chief Crown prosecutors and resident judges; and between local operational managers. The Crown Prosecution Service and Her Majesty's Courts Service have also formed a Joint National Improvement Board with a focus on improving performance.

Unduly Lenient Sentencing

10. **Bob Blackman:** To ask the Attorney-General what representations he has received on his recent report on unduly lenient sentences; and if he will make a statement. [19340]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the my hon. Friend to the answer I gave to the oral questions from the hon. Members for Dartford (Gareth Johnson) and for High Peak (Andrew Bingham) today.

Crime

Keith Vaz: To ask the Attorney-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to increase the proportion of people suspected of offences under section 14 of the Policing and Crime Act 2009 who are prosecuted. [19470]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service and the Association of Chief Police Officers are currently working to develop a joint strategy on the enforcement and prosecution of prostitution-related offences and the exploitation of those involved in prostitution.

Human Trafficking: Convictions

Keith Vaz: To ask the Attorney-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service is taking to increase the proportion of prosecutions for offences of human trafficking which result in conviction. [19471]

The Solicitor-General: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the oral question from the hon. Member for South West Bedfordshire (Andrew Selous) earlier today.

Theft: Prosecutions

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Attorney-General what assessment he has made of factors affecting the success of prosecutions for shop theft. [19410]

The Solicitor-General: While no separate assessment has been made of the factors affecting the success of prosecutions for shop theft, I expect all prosecutions to be conducted in accordance with the requirements set out in the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) Code for Crown Prosecutors and the commitments outlined in the CPS Core Quality Standards.

The CPS's central records include a count of defendants proceeded against for offences of theft and handling, but do not separately identify cases of theft from shops. The figures for 2009-10 indicate strong performance in respect of theft and handling cases, with a success rate of approximately 93%.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Finance

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the provision of funding for pre-apprentice courses. [19243]

Mr Hayes: The Government are keen for as many people as possible to benefit from an apprenticeship. We are looking at how training and support available through a wide range of routes could be harnessed to prepare people for this opportunity, and at whether it may be necessary to create specific, designated pre-apprenticeship training. Indeed, our recent consultation on the future direction of skills policy sought views on what form of pre-apprenticeship training might be appropriate and how we could ensure it was a first step towards ongoing learning. However, the details of what these routes may look like have not yet been determined. Consideration of funding arrangements is a key element in the development of our policy.

Broadband

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department used to determine the locations for each superfast broadband pilot. [19671]

Mr Vaizey: The criteria used were those advertised on the BDUK industry day on 15 July 2010. The locations that were chosen by the devolved Administrations and regional development agencies were selected on the basis that they offered combinations of the following:

Are currently uneconomic due to unattractive payback period but would be long-term commercially sustainable;

Provide opportunity to reuse existing infrastructure: Telco supplier's infrastructure Utility infrastructure or Public sector networks;

Leverage additional sources of funds (e.g. European, public and private);

Provide maximum learning opportunities on cost, revenue take-up and other project information;

Testing different delivery and commercial models.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which locations considered for superfast broadband pilots were not proceeded with; and for what reason in each case. [19672]

Mr Vaizey: 11 locations were proposed, one from each devolved Administration and regional development agency. Those selected were deemed to offer the required mix of learning opportunities from the selection criteria.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of each pilot scheme for superfast broadband. [19673]

Mr Vaizey: Broadband Delivery UK is discussing the scope and scale of the pilots with the relevant local bodies and will assess the appropriate level of funding to provide for each dependent on the outcome of those discussions. A notional allocation of £5 million to £10 million has been made, subject to a process of due diligence.

Business

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings *(a)* Ministers and *(b)* officials of his Department have had with other Departments on job and wealth creation for small businesses since his appointment. [18898]

Mr Prisk: 99.9% of all businesses are SMEs. The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) has an important influencing role at the heart of government as the 'Department for Growth', both in terms of employment and wealth creation. Ministers and officials from BIS are therefore constantly meeting with other Departments to achieve this.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what initiatives his Department has taken to connect with small businesses through the use of new technology *(a)* in consultations and *(b)* otherwise since his appointment. [18922]

Mr Prisk: BIS is employing new technology to connect with small businesses. Our consultation documents are published online and are all linked to Directgov, so that SMEs can search for relevant consultation exercise and provide responses. We are also using e-consultation and Survey Monkeys, and our published consultation documents support open RDF format making them easier to find.

In addition, BIS is committed to work with colleagues in HMRC, who manage the Businesslink.gov.uk programme, to ensure that we make the best use of new technology when delivering support to business. We are currently exploring several areas such as the use of Open Standards, APIs, syndication and mobile services with a view to further enhance our use of new technology in delivering service to both small and medium-sized companies.

Business: Females

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the number of companies listed on the FTSE 100 index who have women on their executive boards. [18444]

Mr Prisk: Lord Davies of Abersoch is currently leading a review into Women on Boards. During the course of this work we will be consulting widely, including with FTSE 100 companies who have women on their boards.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has made a recent estimate of the number of private sector enterprises *(a)* in each sector and *(b)* of each size with women on their executive boards. [18445]

Mr Prisk: BIS has not made any estimate of the number of private sector enterprises in each sector and of each size with women on their executive boards.

A broad estimate of the proportion of women on boards across the UK corporate sector as a whole is approximately 7.8%.

The most authoritative source that tracks developments in the UK's top performing companies is the Female FTSE Report, which monitors trends in the proportion of women holding executive and non-executive directorships across all the FTSE listings. The latest data are as follows:

[1] *Source:*

'Women on Boards: A Statistical Review by Country, Region, Sector and Market Index; Governance Metrics International; March 2009'.

Note:

The sector information in this report is at a global level, not UK level.

Board members who are women

Index	*Percentage*
FTSE 100	12.2
FTSE 250	7.3
FTSE AIM	4.8
FTSE Small Cap	6.3
FTSE Techmark 100	6.0
FTSE Techmark All-Share	6.9
FTSE Fledgling	5.8

Source: Female FTSE Report, November 2009.

Business: Government Assistance

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans the Government have to encourage people to start up new businesses in their local areas. [19681]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government are committed to making the coming decade the most entrepreneurial and dynamic in Britain's history.

The Department has brought together a forum of entrepreneurs, educators and sector representatives to build a consensus on how best learning institutions might further improve and promote enterprise education. This work is designed to ensure the opportunities to develop enterprise and entrepreneurial skills, including those needed to encourage people to start-up new businesses, are supported and promoted throughout education.

The Government have also announced a New Enterprise Allowance which will support start-ups among the unemployed. It will give an unemployed person entering self-employment the support they need to start a successful business.

Government have also announced a dedicated area on the businesslink.gov website for start ups. This will include a package of online training as well as tools and templates to help people think through what they need to do when starting up

Business: Loans

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with banks on lending to small and medium-sized businesses. [19420]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* I have had several discussions with banks recently regarding bank lending to small and medium-sized (SMEs) businesses.

As referred to in the Business Finance Green Paper, the major UK banks and the British Bankers Association (BBA) Taskforce has explored several issues affecting SMEs. I have met with the BBA Taskforce and as my hon. Friend may know the taskforce has now published its report 'Supporting UK Businesses' which sets out 17 actions designed to improve lending to small and medium-sized businesses by taskforce banks.

I recently chaired the first meeting of the Small Business Economic Forum which forms an important platform for bringing small business representatives and banks together on a regular basis to discuss bank lending alongside other business finance and economic issues facing small and medium-sized businesses.

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to ensure that large businesses do not relocate outside the UK as a result of inadequate access to bank finance. [19536]

Mr Davey: The decisions of businesses to remain in the UK are complex. The Government are committed to promoting growth by tackling the deficit, rebalancing the economy and creating the right conditions to support a private sector-led recovery.

Over the summer, the Government issued the Green Paper, "Financing a Private Sector Recovery". This consulted on what is needed to ensure stable financial conditions for business; improvements to the bank lending environment, and; to ensure businesses can access a range of sources of finance. Government will shortly be setting out the action that is being taken in response to this consultation, in ensuring that UK businesses have appropriate and adequate access to finance.

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to encourage banks to lend to small businesses. [19740]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have articulated their ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs. Our consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery" closed on the 20 September, and received many responses from a wide range of firms, business representative bodies, individuals and investors. We are currently considering the Government's response which will be given shortly.

As referred to in the Business Finance Green Paper, the major UK banks and the British Bankers Association (BBA) taskforce have explored several issues affecting SMEs. I have met with the BBA Taskforce and as the hon. Member may know the taskforce has now published its report "Supporting UK Businesses" which sets out 17 actions designed to improve lending to small businesses by taskforce banks. I will follow keenly to ensure that banks deliver on the recommendations outlined in the report.

I recently chaired the first meeting of the Small Business Economic Forum which forms an important platform for bringing small business representatives and banks together on a regular basis to discuss bank lending alongside other business finance and economic issues facing small businesses.

Community Interest Companies: Greater London

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many community interest companies are registered in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford, *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* London. [19534]

Mr Davey: The number of community interest companies registered in *(a)* Bexleyheath and Crayford, and *(b)* the London Borough of Bexley and *(c)* London are as follows:

	Number
Bexleyheath and Crayford	2
The London Borough of Bexley	11
London	888

This statistical information is estimated using postcode data provided in the current registered office addresses of community interest companies on the public register of companies.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16802]

Mr Davey: The Department is committed to reducing its carbon emissions; this is demonstrated by the 14.68% reduction in emissions in 2009/10 compared with 2008/09. Our progress against the 10% target and our plans to reduce emissions by May 2011 can be found on the following link:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

We have completed some of our key initiatives recently including installing Voltage reduction technology at our main ministerial building, 1-19 Victoria Street, adjusted building temperature set points and are engaging with staff to help us achieve the target.

Departmental Recruitment

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to recruit staff to Senior Civil Service posts in the next 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [17364]

Mr Davey: A recruitment freeze is currently in place, which affects all external recruitment into the Civil Service, with exemptions allowed for business critical and frontline posts. The Fast Stream graduate programme is also exempt.

If Departments decide they need to recruit staff to one of the Top 200 Civil Service posts (the most senior posts in the Civil Service) there is a protocol drawn up by the Senior Leadership Committee and the Civil Service Commissioners. It outlines the process in which appointments to and within the Top 200 are handled.

Within BIS, the only Senior Civil Service recruitment we have undertaken since the introduction of the recruitment freeze is for a Director General level Economist. As a major economic department of state the Senior Leadership Committee agreed that this was a business critical post and could be filled by an open competition to ensure that the department had the best field of candidates to consider for the role.

Following the spending review, BIS is reviewing its organisational design, and is considering the need for senior recruitment as part of that process.

Electronic Equipment

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will take steps to prevent the sale in the UK of electronic goods with components made from minerals illegally mined in conflict-affected countries. [19258]

Mr Davey: Having a strong, robust and transparent minerals sector is vitally important for the prosperity of many countries. We welcome measures to bring an end to illegal activities in mining and the trade of minerals, and to make the sector more productive and accountable.

We encourage British companies trading in natural resources from countries which are in a state of internal conflict to do so in a way which is socially, economically and environmentally responsible, and to adhere to the voluntary guidelines set out by the OECD.

There is considerable international work currently in progress at the moment and we remain of the view that voluntary initiatives such as the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) are effective tools. The Government consider international approaches are likely to work better than any national approach.

Green Investment Bank

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Green Investment Bank will be able to raise money on the financial markets. [19749]

Mr Prisk: We are committed to working with the private sector to establish a Green Investment Bank that is effective in mobilising additional private sector investment into green infrastructure projects. The precise nature of the Green Investment Bank is subject to further design and testing work.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what forecast his Department has made of the funding that will be available to the Green Investment Bank in each of the next five years; and what the sources are of such funding. [19750]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the Chancellor's spending review statement of 20 October 2010.

As the Chancellor had announced, we will be funding the Green Investment Bank from £1 billion of departmental budgets, as well as from additional significant proceeds from Government's asset sales. While it would not be appropriate to speculate on the timing of asset sales, the use of these proceeds should provide opportunities for additional funding to be available over the next five years.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what progress has been made in his Department's consideration of applications to establish local enterprise partnerships in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [19081]

Mr Prisk: Ministers are currently examining the proposals in detail, looking at how they will support economic growth, before providing feedback to partnerships shortly. Discussions have also been had with partners from the North East on their proposals.

New Businesses: Government Assistance

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other financial support his Department makes available to start-up businesses in areas of high unemployment. [19362]

Mr Prisk: This Department is responsible for supporting enterprise though Community Development Finance Intuitions and we work closely across Government on this agenda. CDFIs are independent financial institutions, serving a specific disadvantaged geographic area or disadvantaged groups. CDFIs provide loans to start-up companies, individuals and established enterprises from within that area or community who are unable to access finance from more traditional sources ie banks. Accredited CDFIs are able to raise lending capital through the Community Investment Tax Relief (CITR). Some CDFIs are also accredited Enterprise Finance Guarantee lenders and CDFIs are able to borrow money through EFG. Government also support the EU PROGRESS Microfinance Facility which in turn supports microfinance across Europe.

The Government have announced a New Enterprise Allowance which will support start-ups among the unemployed.

Overseas Investment: Mongolia

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on trends in investment in Mongolia by UK-based organisations. [19270]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: HM ambassador in Mongolia provides support to UK business with interests in Mongolia, including in respect of specific contracts and investments. The British Government are aware of some specific UK business engagements in Mongolia, such as a Rio Tinto deal to mine copper and gold at the Oyu Tolgoi development.

Summertime

Mr Ellwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department and its predecessors have undertaken in the last 20 years on the potential effects of changes in the use of British summer time. [19744]

Mr Davey: The Government have made no recent assessment of the current Summer Time arrangements but we continue to listen to representations we receive and consider any evidence presented to us.

Teesside Cast Products: Government Assistance

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the distribution of the remainder of the grant allocated by his Department to Corus TCP in December 2009. [19429]

Mr Prisk *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The previous Government announced the provision of £5 million of training support to Tata Steel (then Corus) in June 2009. £2.5 million of that funding was delivered by the Regional Development Agencies (Yorkshire Forward and One North East) in December 2009. A further £2.5 million was also earmarked to be provided to the company in those regions through Train to Gain. The offer of assistance was intended to contribute to training the work force, retain capacity in the UK and to help the company through the downturn and to recover more strongly as economic conditions improved.

Almost 100 learners at Corus TCP undertook training in Business Improvement Techniques, using Train to Gain funding, with learning delivered by Gateshead College in 09/10. The Skills Funding Agency continues to work constructively with Tata Steel across a number of its sites in different regions to identify training opportunities that are eligible within the current Train to Gain rules and within future funding arrangements, and which are consistent with state aid requirements.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities (1) how much was paid to the Government Equalities Office in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since 1997; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year; [18786]

(2) what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in the Government Equalities Office in each year since its inception; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18787]

Lynne Featherstone: Since the Government Equalities Office was established on 12 October 2007, the following bonuses have been awarded to GEO staff:

Financial year	*Number of staff*	*Total amount of bonuses awarded in GEO (£)*
2007-08[1]	32	41,186
2008-09	49	43,400
2009-10	67	61,400
2010-11[2]	5	45,000

[1] From 12 October 2007 to 31 March 2008.

[2] From 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010.

The top 20 bonus payments are shown as follows divided into ranges. The table gives the range value of the top 20 payments.

Bonus size	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]
£0-£999	12	17	14	—
£1,000-£4,999	5	—	1	—
£5,000-£9,999	2	2	4	3
£10,000-£14,999	1	1	1	2

[1] Only five bonuses have been awarded in 2010-11

The amounts paid to officials other than performance related payments and salaries are drawn from a number of allowances which are detailed as follows:

Temporary Responsibility Allowance
Recruitment and Retention Allowance
Procurement Allowances
Accountancy Allowances
Analyst Allowances—introduced in 2009
Supervisory Allowances
Private Office Allowances
On-Call Allowances
Fast Stream Allowances—being withdrawn
Detached Duty Allowances
Duty Officer Allowances

The following table shows the amount paid in other payments in addition to salary in each year:

Financial year	*Number of employees qualifying for allowance*	*Amount awarded in allowances (£)*
2007-08	16	24,486
2008-09	35	64,597
2009-10	34	48,111
2010-11	22	36,684

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18401]

Lynne Featherstone: For the most recent 12 month period for which figures are available—September 2009 to August 2010—the Government Equalities Office spent £14,255 on overseas visits by its senior officials.

TREASURY

Businesses

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what arrangements HM Revenue and Customs have made to provide *(a)* advice to and *(b)* support for small businesses. [19207]

Mr Gauke: HMRC currently provides advice to small businesses through the HMRC website, 'Taxhelp' and other pages of businesslink.gov.uk, a range of dedicated and general telephone help lines, and face to face appointments in HMRC Enquiry Centres. Around 70% of small and medium sized businesses engage professional help to manage some or all of their financial requirements including tax matters. Both small businesses and tax agents can also access information and advice through face to face advice events, published bulletins for employers and CD ROMs.

HMRC supports small businesses in temporary financial difficulties by providing time to pay arrangements allowing tax debts to be budgeted for in instalments. In addition to this, HMRC continues to reduce administrative burdens and remains committed to simplifying the tax system to reduce the costs for small businesses in complying with their tax obligations. HMRC are increasingly working through third parties to offer necessary support where they know that businesses are more likely to respond to messages from these sources.

Child Benefit

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in *(a)* Stirling constituency, *(b)* Scotland and *(c)* Great Britain are receiving child benefit for (i) one child, (ii) two children, (iii) three children, (iv) four children, (v) five children, (vi) six children and (vii) more than six children. [17381]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* Information on the number of families claiming child benefit, split by number of children up to four, can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

This information is based on a snapshot as at August 2009 of all child benefit claims.

Child Benefit: Norwich

Simon Wright: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many and what proportion of households in Norwich South constituency are in receipt of child benefit. [16531]

Mr Gauke: The latest information on the number of families receiving child benefit, by each parliamentary constituency, local authority and region is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child Benefit Statistics Geographical Analysis. August 2009". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child_benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

Take-up rates for child benefit are not available by constituency. It is estimated that approximately 97% of families in the UK claim child benefit.

Estimates of take-up rate for child benefit in 2007-08 are detailed in the HMRC publication "Child Benefit, Child Tax Credit and Working Tax Credit Take-up Rates 2007-08", which is available on the HMRC website at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-take-up.htm

Foreign Exchange

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the adequacy of arrangements for the regulation of companies trading in foreign exchange markets; and if he will make a statement. [19080]

Mr Hoban: Regulation governing wholesale foreign exchange trading in the UK flows from UK and EU legislation. As with financial services regulation generally, future changes may be considered appropriate and the UK will be closely involved in any European initiative affecting the foreign exchange market.

As regards the regulation of retail foreign exchange services, I refer the hon. Gentleman to the reply I gave the hon. Member for Tewkesbury (Mr Robertson) on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 677W.

Incentives

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid in bonuses to staff of HM Revenue and Customs in each of the last three years; and how many staff in each role received such bonuses in each such year. [18265]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* HMRC operates two bonus arrangements:

> Performance bonuses tied to the annual performance for delegated grades and senior civil servants; and
>
> A recognition bonus scheme for delegated grades which recognises exceptional in year performance.

	Total bonuses paid (£)
2007-08	20,209,000
2008-09	13,004,000
2009-10	13,420,000

HMRC does not hold any bonus data by role.

A two-year pay freeze applies to HMRC staff for grades below senior civil service (SCS) in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This affects everyone earning more than the full-time equivalent of £21,000 a year. As part of the freeze, the bonus pot for staff in delegated grades has been frozen as a percentage of paybill at the previous year's level. A pay freeze is in place for the SCS in 2010-11.

PAYE

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what date the management of HM Revenue and Customs was informed that miscalculations of tax liability in the PAYE system had been made resulting in the overpayment and underpayment of tax; and on what date Ministers were informed. [15458]

Mr Gauke: Under and overpayments have been a feature of the PAYE system since it was introduced in 1944. They are mainly caused by a change of circumstances in year and are not usually the result of an error.

HMRC's management have kept closely in touch with the plans to run automated end of year reconciliation, and this is detailed in the NAO's report on HMRC's accounts for 2009-10, which is available at:

http://www.nao.org.uk/publications/1011/hmrc_accounts_2009-10.aspx

Treasury Ministers were advised in July 2010 that HMRC intended to commence automated end of year reconciliation processing using the new National Insurance and PAYE Service (NPS).

PAYE: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many residents of Gateshead borough have been identified as having *(a)* underpaid and *(b)* overpaid PAYE contributions during the recent automated reconciliation of such payments. [19366]

Mr Gauke: The information requested is available only at disproportionate cost, as HMRC does not hold those data in relation to MPs' constituencies.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many staff HM Revenue and Customs employed at management grades in each of the last three years; and what the average salary was of such an employee in each such year. [18217]

Mr Gauke: The number of staff employed in management grades at 31 March each year and their average salary at that date was as follows:

	2010			*2009*			*2008*		
Grade	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Average salary (£)*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Average salary (£)*	*Headcount*	*Full-time equivalent*	*Average salary (£)*
SCS	383	378.6	86,199.7	407	401.6	84,728.0	393	387.7	83,713.3
Grade 6	1,188	1,135.56	65,227.00	1,213	1,166.4	64,394.5	1,153	1,125.0	63,737.5
Grade 7	2,487	2,386.1	51,183.2	2,556	2,459.5	5,046.7	2,387	2,323.1	49,957.7
Fast stream	423	420.8	31,915.6	491	488.3	31,223.6	617	612.4	32,404.7
Senior officer	3,752	3,627.3	38,627.3	4,089	3,972.4	38,175.3	3,919	3,854.3	37,945.4
Higher officer	9,615	9,105.00	31,509.7	10,410	9,933.7	31,068.3	10,501	10,141.8	30,654.9
Officer	17,884	16,536.3	25,235.0	21,591	20,168.3	24,916.0	22,164	20,838.6	24,619.3

A two-year pay freeze applies to HMRC staff for grades below Senior Civil Service (SCS) in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This affects everyone earning more than the full-time equivalent of £21,000 a year. A pay freeze is already in place for the SCS in 2010-11.

Revenue and Customs: Standards

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many HM Revenue and Customs staff were *(a)* disciplined and *(b)* dismissed as a result of (i) errors made by them and (ii) poor performance in another respect in each of the last 24 months for which figures are available. [18216]

Mr Gauke: The following table provides information on the total number of disciplinary cases dealt by HMRC, as HMRC's systems do not disaggregate disciplinary cases by the term "error".

HMRC does not handle poor performance as a disciplinary matter. It is dealt with under separate Managing Poor Performance procedures. However, the following table includes figures for the numbers of dismissals as a result of poor performance or poor attendance.

	Number of HMRC staff disciplined		
	Total	*Of which: Dismissals*	*Dismissed as a result of poor performance or poor attendance*
2008			
September	52	11	29
October	66	17	30
November	55	12	28
December	55	10	26
2009			
January	55	8	18
February	78	18	34
March	77	23	34
April	60	10	37
May	18	2	40
June	42	12	33
July	67	13	31
August	50	18	35
September	44	12	30
October	61	16	43
November	52	14	35
December	29	12	32
2010			
January	66	26	30
February	53	15	36
March	71	19	29
April	23	14	39
May	21	10	32
June	17	7	28
July	45	16	33
August	39	4	29
September	34	5	38

Senior Civil Servants: Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much was paid to HM Revenue and Customs staff in management grades in *(a)* salaries and *(b)* expenses in the latest period for which figures are available. [18264]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The salary paid to staff in management grades in the month to 30 September 2010 was as follows:

Grade	*Salary paid (£)*
SCS	2,595,341
Grade 6	6,194,243
Grade 7	10,385,239
Fast Stream	1,367,529
Senior Officer	11,685,692

Grade	*Salary paid (£)*
Higher Officer	23,662,234
Officer	34,221,016
Total	90,111,294

Salary calculation = gross annual salary (excluding NIC and superannuation x full-time equivalent value)/12

A two-year pay freeze applies to HMRC staff for grades below senior civil service (SCS) in 2011-12 and 2012-13. This affects everyone earning more than the full-time equivalent of £21,000 a year. A pay freeze is already in place for the SCS in 2010-11.

The expenses paid to staff in management grades in the month to 30 September 2010 was £597,208.90; a breakdown by management grade is available only at disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Sequestration: Finance

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the potential effect of the deferred introduction of the Carbon Capture Storage (CCS) Levy on the readiness of CCS demonstration projects to seek co-funding from the EU's NER300 mechanism. [19751]

Gregory Barker: The European Commission is expected to launch its NER process by the end of October and our aim is to publish guidance for UK projects in relation to the NER once the NER call is launched and we have more detailed information regarding that process.

In parallel we are developing the scope and selection process of the UK CCS programme and will set out proposals on how further demonstration projects will be taken forward by the end of the year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he intends to deliver more than one commercial-scale Carbon Capture Storage demonstration project; and if he will make a statement. [19752]

Gregory Barker: The Government remain committed to the Coalition programme for government policy of providing public sector investment for four CCS demonstration plants. The October 2010 Spending Review announced that up to £1 billion will be invested in the first of these projects. We are now developing our approach to the additional three demonstration projects and will set out proposals on how these projects will be taken forward by the end of the year.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the readiness of Carbon Capture and Storage demonstration projects to seek co-funding from the EU's NER300 mechanism; and if he will make a statement. [19753]

Gregory Barker: The market sounding process carried out by the Office of Carbon Capture and Storage over the summer suggests that there are a number of UK projects interested in seeking funding from the EU NER 300 but it is not possible to say how many will meet the requirements of that process until more details are available from the European Commission.

The Commission is expected to launch its NER process later this month and our aim is to publish guidance for UK projects in relation to the NER once the NER call is launched and we have more detailed information regarding that process.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18570]

Gregory Barker: The Department encourages a culture where good attendance is expected and valued. However, it recognises from time to time absences for medical reasons may be unavoidable. The Department aims to treat its staff who are ill with sympathy and fairness and where possible provide them with support which will enable them to recover their health and return to work.

In 2009-10 the average working days lost per grade were:

Grade	*Average working days lost*
AA	5.4
AO	6.5
EO	7.1
HEO	4.9
SEO	5.0
Grade 7	3.0
Grade 6	3.4
SCS	0.4

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since his Department's inception. [18883]

Gregory Barker: The information requested could be provided only by incurring disproportionate costs.

Energy: Co-operatives

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on energy co-operatives. [17245]

Gregory Barker: The Government are keen to encourage a wide range of innovative approaches to buying and selling energy, particularly those which maximise local opportunities and meet the demands of local people. That is why for example local authorities were recently given the power to sell electricity from renewable sources.

Energy co-operatives are a positive way that local authorities and their communities can come together to develop local renewable and low carbon energy projects. An online portal entitled 'Community Energy Online' will be launched in November and will provide advice and support for these groups, and include information on co-operative business models.

Energy: Housing

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what plans he has to meet representatives of the heating industry to discuss the Green Deal programme. [19771]

Gregory Barker: DECC Ministers regularly meet with stakeholders from the heating industry. During the past few months, the Green Deal has been included in these discussions. We will continue to meet with a range of stakeholders as the Green Deal develops, including the heating industry.

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what energy efficiency measures will qualify for support under his Department's proposed Green Deal programme. [19772]

Gregory Barker: Green Deal will support energy efficiency measures which constitute a fabric change to the property and pay for themselves through real reductions in household fuel bills. One of the most cost effective ways to do this is through insulating homes and this will be a focus of Green Deal. The types of energy efficiency improvement that will fit within the Green Deal framework will be the subject consultation ahead of secondary legislation on the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill.

Energy: Private Rented Housing

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to ensure take-up of the Green Deal in the private rented sector by *(a)* landlords and *(b)* tenants. [19769]

Gregory Barker: The energy security and green economy Bill will be introduced at the end of the year and will confirm our precise approach to improve the energy efficiency of the Private Rented Sector under the Green Deal.

The Green Deal will offer Private Rented Sector landlords a real opportunity to invest in their property at no up-front cost. It will remove the spilt incentive that has previously hampered progress in the sector and allow tenants to repay the cost of energy efficiency measures through their energy bill savings.

Feed-in Tariffs

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will ensure that the support given to people who have already installed renewable electricity projects under the Feed-In-Tariff (FIT) scheme will be protected under any future review of the FIT scheme. [19754]

Gregory Barker: It is the Government's intention that no changes will be made to tariffs for those already receiving feed-in tariffs. Any change to tariffs resulting from a review of the FITs scheme will be directed solely on new entrants joining the scheme.

Heat Pumps

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will take into account in his assessment of the renewable status of heat pumps the level of carbon dioxide emissions in respect of *(a)* heat pump hardware and *(b)* the manufacture and emission of fluorocarbon refrigeration gases; and if he will make a statement. [18512]

Gregory Barker: The renewable status of heat pumps is set out in Directive 2009/28/EC, dated 23 April 2009. The criteria for determining the renewable energy contribution from a heat pump is described in Annex VII of that Directive. This indicates that the Commission will establish, by 1 January 2013, guidelines on how member states are to estimate the renewable energy contribution. The Directive does not require the energy, and associated CO_2 emissions, used in the manufacture of heat pumps and fluorocarbon gases to be taken into account when assessing the renewable energy contribution.

Directive 2005/32/EC, the framework for the setting of ecodesign requirements for energy-using products, requires the Commission to consider the life cycle and environmental aspects of energy using products. The Commission has yet to agree the ecodesign criterion for heating technologies, including heat pumps, though consultation documents have not included these wider energy aspects. The magnitude of manufacturing energy use is small compared with the 'in-use' energy consumption.

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department collects on the fluorocarbons emitted during the manufacture and operation of heat pumps; and if he will make a statement. [18513]

Gregory Barker: A DECC/DEFRA recent review of hydrofluorocarbons (HFC) consumption and emissions forecasting estimated that 0.05 kilo tonnes of HFC was emitted from ground source heat pumps in the UK in 2008, based on 3,500 installed heat pumps. The review emphasises that these estimates are highly uncertain, although very small in relation to HFC emissions from other sectors. The review did not locate sufficient information to make an estimate of HFC emissions from air source heat pumps.

Housing: Energy

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of homes in respect of which the Government has contributed to energy efficiency measures *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in the East of England, *(c)* in Cambridgeshire and *(d)* in North East Cambridgeshire constituency in each of the last three years; what estimate he has made of the number of people who were employed to undertake that work in each such year; and whether he has made an estimate of the effect on the number of new jobs of commissioning that work in each such year. [19790]

Gregory Barker: There are a range of programmes that promote energy efficiency measures including CERT, CESP and Warm Front.

CERT

The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is an obligation on energy suppliers to reduce domestic carbon emissions. Suppliers meet their obligation by promoting the uptake of energy efficiency measures in households.

The number of homes receiving energy efficiency measures under CERT is as follows:

Number of homes receiving CERT insulation measures[1]

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England (total)	[2]—	795,932	675,004
East of England	[2]—	82,603	61,162
Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough)	[2]—	9,218	9,033
North-east Cambridgeshire	[2]—	1,869	1,489

[1] Data are collected based on the number of measures installed. It is assumed that each household treated receives 1.3 measures as some homes will receive both loft and cavity wall insulation. These estimates are made from the Energy Savings Trust's Home Energy Efficiency Database (HEED). The most complete national data available for CERT are from Ofgem. At national level HEED has under recorded the number of measures by 3% in 2008-09 and 19% in 2009-10 compared to the OFGEM totals.

[2] No information currently available.

CESP

The Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) targets designated low income areas across Great Britain with whole house energy efficiency retrofits.

We estimate that CESP will benefit 90,000 households across Great Britain. Regional figures are not available as energy companies are free to deliver CESP in any of the 4,500 eligible areas across Great Britain. However, Ofgem's six-monthly CESP progress report, which was published on 21 October, does provide a regional breakdown for the number of CESP proposals received to date as follows:

Scotland: eight
Wales: eight
North East: five
Yorkshire and Humberside: 12
North West: 18
East Midlands: one
West Midlands: 19
East of England: three
London: five
South East: one
South West: one.

Warm Front

Warm Front provides heating and energy efficiency measures and energy efficiency advice to vulnerable households.

The number of households assisted under Warm Front is as follows:

	2007-08	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
England (total)	268,900	233,594	212,963
East of England	24,421	25,503	19,913
Cambridgeshire (including Peterborough)	2,616	2,185	2,080
North-east Cambridgeshire	975	457	499

Note:
These figures include households receiving measures that have been traded with CERT. The number of households assisted in the CERT and Warm Front tables above may have in some cases been double counted.

The number of people employed directly in energy efficiency products and services in the UK has been estimated by the Energy Efficiency Partnership for Homes as 50,000.

The effect on the number of new jobs of commissioning the work to undertake the energy efficiency measures is not known for CERT, CESP or Warm Front.

Housing: Insulation

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects his Department's programme for the insulation of 3.5 million homes to be completed. [19738]

Gregory Barker: To pave the way for the Green Deal, to ensure supply chains grow to meet future challenges and so that consumers have opportunities now, we announced this summer a restructured and extended Carbon Emissions Reduction Target on energy suppliers to December 2012. The revised scheme has a renewed focus on insulation, which we estimate will deliver insulation to some 3.5 million households by December 2012.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the cost to his Department was of the storage of *(a)* spent nuclear fuel and *(b)* intermediate nuclear waste at reactor sites in the UK in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and whether his Department is taking steps to reduce such costs. [17653]

Charles Hendry: Due to the complexity of the sites, storage cost of spent fuel and intermediate level waste cannot be easily apportioned because each stream shares common resources, management arrangements and facilities. The total expenditure on Magnox reactor sites (for the year ended 31 March 2009) was £590 million. This included the operational cost for the two generating sites, Wylfa and Oldbury, of £164 million and power generating revenue of £324 million. The cost to maintain safe compliant condition on non operational sites is approximately £159 million.

DECC, through NDA, continually drive cost efficiency into the decommissioning and waste management programme through stringent oversight and developing appropriate commercial arrangements. Cost reduction is ultimately driven through by reducing hazards at the sites by retrieving and packaging waste so that it can be stored passively and safely. Early remediation, within funding constraints, is the key to reducing ongoing liability. DECC are currently considering, as part of the current spending review, a programme that will not only meet funding constraints and accelerate hazard remediation, but also reduce the long term Nuclear Liability Estimate (NLE) at Magnox Sites by between £1 billion and £1.2 billion.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his estimate is of the increase in *(a)* average domestic gas bills, *(b)* average domestic gas bills in the lowest income quintile, *(c)* average industrial gas bills and *(d)* gas bills among intensive-energy users by (i) 2020 and (ii) 2030 as a result of the Renewable Heat Incentive implementation of other measures designed to mitigate the effects of climate change. [17293]

Charles Hendry: As part of the spending review process, the Government announced they will not be taking forward the previous Administration's plans of funding the Renewable Heat Incentive scheme through an overly complex renewable heat levy. The forthcoming RHI will not, therefore, impact directly on domestic or non-domestic gas bills.

Tidal Power: Bristol Channel

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to his written statement of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 42-46WS, on energy policy, what future plans he has for renewable tidal energy in the Bristol Channel; and if he will make a statement. [19755]

Charles Hendry: The Severn tidal power feasibility study has concluded that there is no strategic case for Government to support a large tidal power scheme in the Severn estuary in the immediate term. However, the Government recognises that factors which will determine the feasibility of Severn tidal power could change over time. The circumstances in which a future Government may choose to review the case for Severn tidal power are set out in the feasibility study summary report available at:

www.decc.gov.uk/severntidalpower

The outcome of the feasibility study does not preclude a privately financed scheme coming forward. My officials are talking to private sector consortia about their ideas.

Warm Front Scheme

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department plans to take to assist the fuel-poor and vulnerable energy consumers when the Warm Front programme ends in 2011. [19770]

Gregory Barker: Funding for the Warm Front scheme was announced in the spending review through to 2012-13. Government will work to improve the cost-effectiveness of Warm Front by ensuring that the scheme is best targeted to help the most vulnerable receive free or subsidised heating and insulation measures, through a more focused programme. We will be consulting to ensure that the eligibility criteria support this objective.

At the same time, we are working towards a further package of measures that will help support more of the most vulnerable and fuel poor households to keep their homes warm at an affordable cost. Through the CERT extension, from April 2011, we have introduced a greater focus on targeting energy efficiency measures at the most vulnerable households by introducing a Super Priority Group. And we intend to introduce mandated Social Price Support in April 2011, to replace the existing Voluntary Agreement in order to provide direct energy bill support to a large number of vulnerable households.

From 2012, the Green Deal is expected to dramatically increase investment in energy efficiency for households and businesses across the country. It will help protect people against price rises through greater energy saving, with special support for the most vulnerable. The new Energy Company Obligation, which will take over from current schemes from the end of 2012, will run in parallel with and serve to underpin parts of the Green Deal programme. It is intended to focus particularly on households who cannot achieve financial savings without additional support, including the poorest and most vulnerable and those in hard to treat homes.

We expect energy companies to play an even greater role than they do through the current obligations in ensuring the poorest and most vulnerable can afford to heat their homes adequately. This includes offering a wider range of measures which improve energy performance, such as heating systems.

EDUCATION

Academies

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name and postcode is of each academy school; when each such school opened; who the sponsor is of each such school; and what the name was of the community school that preceded the academy school in each case. [4910]

Mr Gibb: The information requested has been placed in the House Libraries. Postcode information can be obtained from Edubase, the database of educational establishments in England:

www.edubase.gov.uk

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what evidence he took into account in his assessment that academy schools would raise the standards of other schools in the same area; and whether he plans to review that assessment when the proposed academy schools have been established. [9487]

Mr Gibb: The Fifth Annual Independent Academies Evaluation Report from PricewaterhouseCoopers found that there is evidence of academies increasing collaboration with neighbouring primary schools and secondary schools. It also found that neighbouring schools have increasingly realised the benefits they can derive from academies with some adopting policies introduced by academies—the report found that this had a positive impact on other local schools.

More recently, the National Audit Office report on Academies did "identify effective examples of partnership working with other schools, particularly 'feeder' primary schools".

All outstanding schools that convert will be expected to partner and provide support to weak schools to help improve standards. Currently, the former and existing city technology colleges are sponsoring over 20 academies or are supporting weaker schools. We will continue to monitor the progress and performance of academies and ensure that they remain accountable against the results and outcomes they are expected to deliver.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 10W, on the Building Schools for the Future Programme, how much capital has been allocated to *(a)* Wade Deacon School and *(b)* The Grange School. [17883]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* Wade Deacon school has been allocated £28.6 million of conventional capital funding, and The Grange school has been allocated £35.3 million of PFI credits for the secondary school phase. As the Grange school will be an all-through school, Halton borough council is also planning to convert around £6.5 million of its primary capital grant into PFI credits.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what recent assessment he has made of the need for building programmes at *(a)* Fox Wood School, *(b)* Green Lane School, *(c)* Lysander High School and *(d)* William Beamont High School in Warrington North constituency; [11518]

(2) what recent representations he has received from Warrington Borough Council on the need for building programmes at *(a)* Fox Wood School, *(b)* Green Lane School, *(c)* Lysander High School and *(d)* William Beamont High School. [11519]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 27 July 2010]:* On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of the Department's capital programmes. The review will make recommendations to help shape the decision of future capital investment in schools including those in Warrington North constituency. The aim is to ensure that investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage.

The Secretary of State has not had any recent discussions with or representations from Warrington borough council about Building Schools for the Future (BSF).

On 26 July my noble Friend the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Schools met with the hon. Member for Warrington South (David Mowat) to discuss the impact of the BSF cancellations on schools in Warrington.

Children in Care: Missing Persons

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the merits of holding centrally information on the number of children who have gone missing from social services care. [17668]

Tim Loughton: It is clearly important to collect information about the number of children who have gone missing from care. This is a key indicator of whether looked after children are being appropriately safeguarded. The Department collects information on the number of looked after children absent for more than 24 hours from their agreed placement. However it is the responsibility of local authorities to safeguard and promote the well-being of children in care and they will hold more detailed information on each child who has gone missing from their care. They are expected to use this to inform their processes and procedures, and the training of staff and carers, to minimise the risk of children going missing from local placements.

Children: Chronic Conditions

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the number of children with a chronic condition requiring medical treatment in each region in the latest period for which figures are available. [19675]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

No such estimate has been made. It is currently for individual primary care trusts within the national health service to commission services for their resident population, including services for children with a chronic condition requiring medical treatment.

Coventry Butts Street Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans his Department has for the future of the Coventry Butts Street Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency building. [18026]

Tim Loughton: The property at Butts Street, Coventry is occupied wholly by the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA). It is intended that following the abolition of the QCDA in 2012 the lease for the building will be transferred to the Department for Education.

The Department is presently reviewing options for the future use of the building and a decision has not yet been taken.

Departmental Billing

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the average cost to his Department was of processing the payment of an invoice in the latest period for which figures are available; and what proportion of invoices settled in that period his Department paid *(a)* electronically and *(b)* by cheque. [16162]

Tim Loughton: The average cost to the Department for Education, in August 2010, for processing payment of invoices was £1.60 for invoices processed electronically and £3.41 for invoices processed manually. Based on August 2010 figures, 98.61% of the Department's invoices were processed electronically and 1.39% processed by cheque.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16807]

Tim Loughton: For the period from May to September 2010 the Department estimates it has reduced carbon dioxide emissions by over 9%.

The Department has plans in place to achieve a 10% emissions reduction during the financial year 2010/11 compared with financial year 2009/10. This will be achieved by changes to how buildings are operated and also a communications campaign to encourage staff and building users to reduce their energy use as far as possible.

Departmental Empty Property

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what vacant leasehold properties his Department owns; how many years are left until the lease break clause in each case; and what the average rent was in each case in the latest period for which figures are available. [18649]

Tim Loughton: Details of the Department for Education's vacant leasehold properties, current annual rental costs and the date of next opportunity to break or terminate our lease in each case are shown in the following table:

Property	*Annual rent (£)*	*Lease break/expiry*
Atlas House, Bolton	33,302	25 March 2015
Blenheim Court, Peterborough	74,261	9 August 2015
Unit E3 Brandon Court, Coventry	60,297	23 June 2015

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for how many days on average his Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18569]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was formed on 12 May 2010. Information for 2009-10 relates to its predecessor, the Department for Children, Schools and Families.

The average number of working days lost (AWDL) of all staff for the rolling period 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 was 6.6 days. Information on absence data is published quarterly on the Department's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00448/sickness-absence

The tables on the website break the data down by grade, as well as by age, gender and geographical location.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18752]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education (DFE) was formed on 12 May 2010. The information covers its predecessors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Education and Skills.

Sickness absence data for DFE and DCSF covering the periods July 2007 to June 2010 are available on the Department's website and for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2007 on the Cabinet Office's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00448/sickness-absence

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

No data are available for the period prior to 1 April 2003 as they were not routinely collected centrally or by Departments.

Due to the wide range of posts and salary points in the Department, the actual costs of absences could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. Estimate costs of absence for the Civil Service between 2003 and 2007 are set out in the reports on the Cabinet Office website.

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18753]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education (DFE) was formed on 12 May 2010. The information covers its predecessors, the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF) and the Department for Education and Skills.

Sickness absence data for DFE and DCSF covering the periods July 2007 to June 2010 are available on the Department's website and for the period 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2007 on the Cabinet Office's website:

http://www.education.gov.uk/aboutdfe/departmentalinformation/transparency/a00448/sickness-absence

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

The latest published information shows the average number of working days lost (AWDL) for staff for the rolling period 1 July 2009 to 30 June 2010 at 6.6 days. The tables on the DFE website break the figures down according to grade, age, gender and geographical location.

No data are available for the period prior to 1 April 2003 as it was not routinely collected centrally or by departments.

The data, broken down as requested, could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Non-Departmental Public Bodies

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff his Department plans to *(a)* recruit and *(b)* transfer to new duties as a result of the implementation of the proposals for the reform of non-departmental public bodies; and how many redundancies he expects to result from the implementation of these proposals. [18190]

Tim Loughton: There are no plans to recruit new staff into the Department for Education to undertake duties previously carried out by non-departmental public bodies (NDPBs). There are likely to be existing staff in NDPBs who will transfer into the Department, under Transfer of Undertakings Protection of Employment (TUPE) regulations or in accordance with the Cabinet Office Statement of Practice (COSOP) on staff transfers in the public sector. It is not possible to say how many staff will transfer into the Department, or give the numbers of existing departmental staff who will change their responsibilities to undertake work previously carried out by our NDPBs, at this stage of the reform programme.

The Secretary of State announced the closure of the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency (BECTA) and the Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency (QCDA) earlier this year. Some activity formerly undertaken by BECTA will return to the Department and will result in staff transferring into the Department under TUPE/COSOP arrangements. No decisions have been made about transferring activity undertaken by QCDA.

The number of staff to be made redundant due to the closure of these NDPBs is not known. There are consultations under way or about to commence with staff which could result in some staff retiring or leaving under voluntary severance terms.

The current cross-Government recruitment freeze also means that staff who leave are not replaced unless they are considered critical to continuous effective delivery until closure.

On 14 October 2010 the Cabinet Office announced the initial findings of the coalition Government's pledge to increase the transparency and accountability of public bodies. The announcement gave an update on Government-wide plans to abolish, merge, reform or review 901 NDPBs. The work to review and reform public bodies continues in the Department and its outcome will inform decisions about the future of its other NDPBs. This, combined with the outcome of the comprehensive spending review, is likely to mean further staff reductions across the Department and its NDPBs, but it is not possible to give an indication of the numbers at this time.

Pupils: Disadvantaged

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the effect of family debt on the educational attainment of children in deprived areas. [16984]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* The Secretary of State has not received any recent representations on the effect of family debt on the educational attainment of children in deprived areas.

Schools: Doncaster

Ms Winterton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to *(a)* rebuild and *(b)* refurbish secondary schools in Doncaster. [5428]

Mr Gibb: As the right hon. Member may be aware, on 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of all areas of DFE capital spending. Its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage. The independent capital review team is working with building companies on a pilot proposal to rebuild Campsmount Technology College in Doncaster. There is a good prospect that the new school could be built ahead of the original schedule and with significant cost savings. The funding of academies in Doncaster will be considered on a case-by-case basis. However plans for all other schools in Doncaster in line for BSF funding for refurbishment and rebuilds have been stopped at present while we await the outcome of the capital review which will report at the end of this calendar year.

Schools: Finance

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of funding for maintained schools which comes from *(a)* (i) central and (ii) local government and *(b)* other sources. [14038]

Mr Gibb: From 2008-09 section 251 budget and outturn statements we estimate that 93.8% of funding for maintained schools in 2008-09 came from central Government, 0.2% from the local authority, and 6% from other sources.

Schools: Vetting

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department requires those who go onto a school site to carry out repairs of service equipment to undergo a Criminal Records Bureau check. [17740]

Tim Loughton: The Government have committed to reviewing the criminal records regime in order to scale it back to common sense levels; meanwhile, previous statutory guidance remains in force. To meet inspection standards, a school must follow statutory guidance unless there is a compelling reason not to.

The guidance states that visitors or contractors who come on site only to carry out emergency repairs or service equipment will not require a CRB check. However, the guidance makes clear that contractors do need to undergo a CRB check if they are going to be left unsupervised on school premises or if they are going to come into contact with children. Of course, the vast majority of contractors will not come into contact with children because, for health and safety reasons, children should not be allowed in areas where builders are working.

The scope of the review will be announced shortly. The Government recognise the costs and other difficulties for applicants and employers which can arise, and will be looking at a more cost-efficient and effective way of doing things, balancing the need for people to have the freedom to go about their daily lives while safeguarding children.

Social Work Taskforce

Meg Munn: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he plans to implement the recommendation of the Social Work Task Force to introduce an assessed year in practice for new social workers. [18638]

Tim Loughton: The Government are committed to reforming social work and took early steps in June 2010 to confirm its support for the Social Work Reform Board which is taking forward the recommendations of the Social Work Task Force; to confirm funding for social work reform in 2010-11; and to announce the Munro Review of Child Protection which will make final recommendations in April 2011 for improving frontline child protection services.

The transition from study to practice is a crucial time in a social worker's career and the Social Work Reform Board is looking at how this area can be improved.

including options for a new Assessed Year in Employment, building on the existing Newly Qualified Social Worker programmes in the adult and children's sectors. The Social Work Reform Board will advise Government on options for the Assessed Year in Employment over the course of the coming year and the Government will consider very carefully how to take this forward.

Teachers: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to retain teachers within the profession in light of the planned two-year public sector pay freeze. [7391]

Mr Gibb: The School Teachers' Pay and Conditions Document already provides maintained schools in England and Wales with the option of making additional payments or providing other financial assistance, support or benefits to a teacher in order to retain their service.

The Government will keep under review the impact that the pay freeze has on teacher recruitment and retention.

Teachers and other education professionals will be at the heart of the Schools White Paper, to be launched later this year, because everything else the Government want to achieve in education flows naturally from the quality and professional status of the work force.

Young People: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the performance of Nottinghamshire County Council Children's Services in respect of at-risk young people. [17941]

Tim Loughton *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* Ofsted published the results of their full inspection of Nottinghamshire's safeguarding and looked after children services on 21 May 2010. This report judged the council's safeguarding services to be 'inadequate', highlighting deficiencies in quality and timeliness of frontline practice, work force capacity and application of thresholds.

The Department issued the council with an Improvement Notice on 29 June, containing a range of targets for the council to meet within a prescribed timescale. As set out in the Improvement Notice, officials from the Department routinely attend the council's monthly Improvement Board, which supports and challenges the council's ongoing plans for improvement.

Officials also met the council recently to review progress against the requirements of the Improvement Notice, and a final review will take place when performance data relating to June 2011 are available. At that stage, Ministers will take a view as to whether any further action is necessary to secure the safety of Nottinghamshire's at-risk children and young people.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Consultants

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will make it his policy to limit the rate of pay of consultants funded through grants made by his Department to £300 per day or the equivalent annual salary. [19042]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) policy is to ensure that all contracts represent value for money, by maximising efficiency savings and quality from every contract we have with consultants. All work for DFID is paid for in arrears, if we are satisfied with the product. In certain markets, we can often obtain services for less than £300 per day. Sometimes, however, complex market conditions affect fee rates, and require us to pay more, for example in specialised markets or difficult operating environments such as fragile states. In these circumstances a universal fee rate cap is not feasible.

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions by his Department; and what assessment he has made of the effects on the prospects for small businesses of winning contracts of such statements. [19015]

Mr O'Brien: Quality management statements are provided by suppliers at the Pre Qualification Questionnaire stage of a competitive process. This provides assurances that suppliers the Department for international Development (DFID) does business with comply with the Quality and Health and Safety standards provided by the Office of Government Commerce (OGC). This is an integral part of our assessment of a supplier. Suppliers are asked to provide either an accreditation certificate or, as an alternative, details of their quality management systems. Therefore we do not anticipate this requirement to have an impact on small and medium size enterprises winning DFID business.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the oral statement of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-801, on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, what criteria his Department uses to determine whether a state is *(a)* fragile and *(b)* conflict-affected. [19208]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not formally distinguish between the categories of *(a)* "fragile" and *(b)* "conflict-affected" states. DFID uses a range of criteria drawn from internationally recognised indices, including the World Bank's Country Policy Institutional Assessment Index, the Failed State Index of the Fund for Peace, and the Uppsala datasets of Armed Conflict to determine which states are "fragile and conflict-affected".

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the statement of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-801, on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, from which departmental budgets the increase in funding for the Conflict Pool will be drawn. [19209]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Conflict Pool does not draw its resources from departmental budgets. The Conflict Pool is part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the statement of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-801, on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, from which departmental budgets funding for the increase in official development assistance to fragile and conflict-affected states will be drawn. [19210]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The increase in Official Development Assistance (ODA) to fragile and conflict-affected states will be drawn from the departmental budgets of the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence, together with the separate Conflict Pool settlement.

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the statement of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-801, on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, from which of his Department's budget lines the increase in funding for fragile and conflict-affected states will be drawn. [19211]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Department for International Development (DFID) is reviewing all bilateral and multilateral programmes to ensure resources are focused where they will achieve most impact. The outcome of the reviews will determine final allocations across the Department, including to fragile and conflict-affected states.

Funding for conflict and fragile affected states will also be provided from the separate settlement on conflict resources. The Conflict Pool does not draw its resources from departmental budgets; it is part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence.

Pakistan: Debts

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the International Monetary Fund on the interest on Pakistan's debt repayments. [18546]

Mr Hoban: I have been asked to reply.

Treasury Ministers regularly meet with multilateral institutions, including the International Monetary Fund, on a wide range of policy issues.

HEALTH

Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs. [19165]

Anne Milton: The Department has not carried out any formal assessment of the Advisory Committee on the Safety of Blood, Tissues and Organs (SaBTO), which was established in January 2008. However, the chair of SaBTO carries out periodic appraisals for each of the SaBTO members, which include a review of members' performance. Appointments are reviewed regularly. Officials regularly meet with the chair to discuss the work of SaBTO.

However, as part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs), we will be implementing a periodic review process, of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness.

Advisory Committees

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Committee on Medical Effects of Air Pollutants; [19160]

(2) what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Committee on Carcogenicity of Chemicals in Food Consumer Products and the Environment; [19161]

(3) what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Committee on Mutagenicity of Chemicals in Food, Consumer Products and the Environment. [19174]

Anne Milton: No formal assessments have been made of these committees themselves. The Chairmen and Health Protection Agency secretariats review members' contributions on an annual basis. The Department is satisfied with the advice they have provided over many years.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs), we will be implementing a periodic review process (three yearly), of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness. Wherever possible this will be conducted by an independent expert. Members' attendance and performance are assessed by committee chairs and secretariat when reappointments are considered.

Scientific Advisory Committees must follow the code of practice for Scientific Advisory Committees. This can be viewed at:

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/BISPartners/GoScience/Docs/C/cop-scientific-advisory-committees.pdf

Alcoholic Drinks: Expenditure

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the annual direct cost to the NHS of treating people with *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol-related illnesses. [19679]

Anne Milton: The Department does not maintain an annual record of the cost to the national health service of treating people with such illnesses.

Academic research has indicated that the direct cost to the NHS of treating people with tobacco related-illnesses in England is £2.7 billion per annum (Callum C.) (2008). The cost of smoking to the NHS in Health Economics, Policy and Law. This report is available at:

http://journals.cambridge.org/action/displayFulltext?type=1&pdftype=1&fid=7879505&jid=HEP&volumeId=-1&issueId=&aid=7879503

There has been no recent estimate of the annual cost to the NHS of treating alcohol-related illnesses; however, a review into the total cost of alcohol harms was carried out by the Department in 2008. The cost of alcohol harm to the NHS in England estimates that the total cost of alcohol harms to the NHS is around £2.7 billion a year. A copy of this review has already been placed in the Library.

Earlier this year, Policy Exchange estimated that the wider cost to society of tobacco use is almost £14 billion per annum. In their report, 'Cough up', they looked at the cost of early death or retirement due to sickness, payment of benefits to support widows and families, the costs of sickness at work to employers, the human and financial costs of smoking-related fires, smoking breaks at work and cleaning up cigarette butts. A copy of this report has been placed in the Library.

Department statistics show that, in England in 2007-08, there were estimated to be 945,000 alcohol-related hospital admissions, which is 7% of all hospital admissions.

It is estimated that up to 35% of all Accident and Emergency attendance and ambulance costs may be alcohol-related.

The National Audit Office has carried out an audit of NHS spend on alcohol treatment. Its report, Reducing Alcohol Harm: health services in England for alcohol misuse, was published in November 2008 and found, that where primary care trust expenditure on alcohol services was known, an average of £600,000 was spent on commissioning alcohol services in 2006-07.

Arthritis: Training

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will issue guidance to GP consortia on the provision of training to commission services for people with rheumatoid arthritis that develop their ability to self-care and manage pain on a day-to-day basis. [19720]

Paul Burstow: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out our proposals to devolve power and responsibility for commissioning services to local consortiums of general practitioner (GP) practices.

GPs play a crucial role in co-ordinating patient care and committing national health service resources through daily clinical decisions. Our proposals for this new model of commissioning draw on the regular contact that GPs have with patients and their more detailed understanding of patients' wider health care needs.

We propose that GP consortiums will be responsible for commissioning the great majority of NHS services. In doing this, they would also play a crucial role in ensuring that patients have an opportunity to exercise greater choice and control over their care and treatment, including choice of any willing provider of services.

To support GP consortiums in their commissioning decisions, we will also create an independent NHS Commissioning Board. The NHS Commissioning Board will provide a framework to support GP consortiums in commissioning services, including setting commissioning guidelines on the basis of clinically approved quality standards developed with advice from National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence, in a way that promotes joint working across health, public health and social care. We also propose that the NHS Commissioning Board would take the lead on promoting and extending patient involvement and choice.

'Liberating the NHS: Commissioning for Patients' invited views on a number of areas of the commissioning agenda. The engagement exercise closed on 11 October and the Department is now analysing all of the contributions received.

'Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control', published on 18 October, seeks views on how we implement the choice commitments in the White Paper, including what can be done to encourage GP consortiums to offer appropriate choices to their populations. The consultation closes on 14 January 2011.

Autism: Health Services

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment his Department has made of the appropriateness of the care and support provided to *(a)* children and *(b)* adults with autism who are receiving treatment in hospitals. [19036]

Paul Burstow: The Care Quality Commission undertakes assessment of hospital and social care services to ensure they meet essential standards of quality and safety. These standards include the delivery of care, treatment and support for all individuals.

The Autism Strategy consultations provided some personal experiences of hospital services for people and children with autism, which will inform the planned statutory guidance for health and social care bodies to support delivery of the strategy. The statutory guidance is to be published by the end of December 2010.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Angie Bray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on its proposal to extend the age group for breast screening to include those over the age of 70 years. [19697]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) included the commitment that the NHS Breast Screening Programme would be extended to women aged 47 to 73. In June this year, we confirmed in the Revision to the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11 that all local breast screening units should begin the extension in 2010-11. To date, 14 breast screening units have expanded.

A copy of the framework has already been placed in the Library.

Cancer: Drugs

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has made a recent assessment of the regional variation in the allocation of funds from the Government's interim Cancer Drugs Fund; [19077]

(2) in respect of which locations funding from the interim Cancer Drugs Fund has been allocated; and how much such funding has been allocated to *(a)* the dispensing of drugs and *(b)* administration of the Fund. [19078]

Paul Burstow: From 1 October 2010, strategic health authorities (SHAs) were allocated £50 million of interim funding for cancer drugs, in advance of the implementation of the Cancer Drugs Fund from April 2011. The funding was allocated using the weighted capitation formula, which distributes resources based on the relative needs of the area and takes account of such factors as the age distribution of the population and additional need in determining the appropriate allocation of funding. A table showing the allocation of funding to SHAs is included as follows:

Region	*Allocation (£ million)*	*Percentage share*
North East SHA	2.8	6
North West SHA	7.4	14
Yorkshire and the Humber SHA	5.3	11
East Midlands SHA	4.2	8
West Midlands SHA	5.4	11
East of England SHA	5.2	10
London SHA	7.6	15
South East Coast SHA	3.9	8
South Central SHA	3.4	7
South West SHA	4.8	10
Total	50.0	100

The Department has issued guiding principles to SHAs, specifying that the funding is intended to pay for the purchase of drugs, and primary care trusts are expected to meet the associated service costs related to provision of these medicines.

The guiding principles are included in Sir Bruce Keogh's letter of 27 July to SHA Directors of Finance, Deputy Directors of Finance and Medical Directors, which is available at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Lettersandcirculars/Dearcolleagueletters/DH_117996

and a copy has been placed in the Library.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the level of multidisciplinary team provision for chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME) to take account of the decision not to receive blood from people diagnosed with ME. [19306]

Paul Burstow: The ban on blood donations from those living with chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), to be introduced from 1 November 2010, is a precautionary measure. At the moment there is no clear evidence for the cause of CFS/ME, and health professionals should continue to use their clinical judgment to provide health and social care based on existing guidelines.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he expects to publish the national clinical strategy on chronic obstructive pulmonary disease. [19261]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Houghton and Sunderland South (Bridget Phillipson) on 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 567W.

Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment. [19159]

Anne Milton: The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment (COMARE) was reviewed in 2005 by a panel of assessors drawn from Government Departments, the devolved Administrations and other agencies with an interest in its work.

The assessors concluded that COMARE was good value and a well run committee that more than met the needs of advice to Government.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs), we will be implementing a periodic review process (three yearly), of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness. Wherever possible this will be conducted by an independent expert.

Dementia

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will ensure that the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence review of dementia treatment takes account of the management of behaviour and symptoms with a view to reducing the prescription of anti-psychotics. [19294]

Paul Burstow: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given by the Minister of State, my hon. Friend the Member for Chelmsford (Mr Burns) on 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 395W.

Dental Services

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made an assessment of the financial implications for small NHS dental practices of Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 on decontamination in primary care dental practices. [19003]

Mr Simon Burns: We are only requiring compliance with the essential quality requirements (EQR) within Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05, which add very little to the standards set in the 'A 12' guide on decontamination in dental practice, issued by the British Dental Association in 2002, with the support of the Department. Practices that were complying with this earlier guidance should therefore incur few additional costs in complying with the EQR. We have not set a date for compliance with the higher 'best practice' standards set in the HTM.

Departmental Expenditure Limit

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether the planned NHS surplus for 2010-11 has been included into the baseline figure for his Department's departmental expenditure limit. [19617]

Mr Simon Burns: Forecast underspends or overspends do not form part of the baseline in this or any other Spending Review.

The national health service will continue to be allowed to access their accumulated surpluses as part of their agreed financial plans over the next Spending Review, in line with the requirements outlined in the Operating Framework.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the real terms percentage change from year to year in his departmental expenditure limit for the years 2010-11 to 2014-15. [19600]

Mr Simon Burns: The real terms percentage changes in the departmental expenditure limit (DEL) are shown in the following table. These figures have been constructed from figures published by HM Treasury as part of the 2010 Spending Review: Resource DEL—Table A10, Capital DEL—Table A6, Total DEL—Table A9.

Average growth for the national health service in Spending Review 2010

	Average growth as a percentage			
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Resource DEL	0.9	0.2	0.2	0.0
Capital DEL	-15.2	-2.2	-2.4	2.0
Total DEL	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1

Note:
Calculations use the gross domestic product deflator from Budget 2010 as 1.95% for 2011-12, 2.27% for 2012-13, 2.62% for 2013-14 and 2.65% for 2014-15.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason there is a difference between the Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) of £101.5 billion for his Department for 2010-11 referred to in the June 2010 Budget Red Book and the Resource DEL for 2010-11 of £98.7 billion referred to in Spending Review 2010. [19610]

Mr Simon Burns: The figures are not comparable and are in a different financial currency. The £98.7 billion referred to in Spending Review Table A5 covers national health service expenditure in England excluding depreciation. The £101.5 billion referred to in the June 2010 Budget Red Book, is on a resource base that includes depreciation, and covers in addition to NHS England funding: expenditure on Personal Social Services and on the Food Standards Agency.

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health with reference to Spending Review 2010, page 43, Table 2.2, for what reason depreciation is excluded from the resource departmental expenditure limit for 2010-11 for his Department. [19611]

Mr Simon Burns: The normal protocol used by Department to report total National Health Service Expenditure is to report Revenue Departmental Expenditure Limit (DEL) including depreciation (RDEL). This has caused confusion in the past when RDEL is reported alongside capital (CDEL), and overall expenditure (TDEL). This is because TDEL is sum of RDEL and CDEL net of depreciation; to include depreciation would double count funding in both revenue and capital.

The revised presentation adopted in Spending Review 2010 allows total expenditure to be calculated as a simple sum of revenue and capital.

The alternative presentation of revenue resource DEL that includes depreciation is given in Table A10 of the statistical annex to the Spending Review.

Diabetes: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of type *(a)* 1 and *(b)* 2 diabetes were confirmed in Ealing, Southall constituency in each year since 2007. [19076]

Paul Burstow: Information is not collected in the format requested. The National Quality and Outcomes Framework (QOF) records the number of people on practice disease registers. A register exists for diabetes, but it does not include patients below the age of 17 and does not distinguish between the two types of diabetes. Data are collected by primary care trust (PCT), not by constituency.

The following table shows the number of patients on the diabetes disease register in Ealing PCT by financial year. Patients are aged 17 and over, and figures include both types of diabetes.

Number of patients on the diabetes disease register in Ealing PCT from 2006-07

Financial year	*Number of patients*
2006-07	15,703
2007-08	16,459
2008-09	17,523
2009-10	18,878

Notes:
1. The QOF was introduced as part of the new General Medical Services contract on 1 April 2004.
2. Participation by practices in the QOF is voluntary, though participation rates are very high, with most Personal Medical Services practices also taking part.
3. The published QOF information was derived from the Quality Management Analysis System (QMAS), a national information technology system that uses data from general practices to calculate individual practices' QOF achievement.

Source:
The Information Centre for health and social care

Gene Therapy Advisory Committee

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent assessment is of the performance of the Gene Therapy Advisory Committee. [19173]

Anne Milton: The Gene Therapy Advisory Committee (GTAC) operates in accordance with its standard operating procedures as laid down in the Clinical Trials Directive (2001/20/EC) which were transposed into United Kingdom law by the Medicines for Human Use (Clinical Trials) Regulations 2004. In addition to legislation, GTAC adheres to international standards on the ethics of clinical research, and ensures that the applications it receives conform to the standards established by the World Medical Association Declaration of Helsinki as well as the International Conference on Harmonisation - Good Clinical Practice Guidelines for Clinical Trials (ICH-GCP). The performance of the Committee's Chair and individual members is assessed by the Department and the Appointments Commission, and is taken into account in the reappointment process.

Health Protection Agency

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from what sources he plans to seek independent advice on the effects of radiation following the abolition of the *(a)* Health Protection Agency and *(b)* Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment; and if he will make a statement. [19802]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency will only cease to be a statutory body. Its functions will be transferred into the new Public Health Service within the Department. The Committee on Medical Aspects of Radiation in the Environment will not be abolished, but will continue as an advisory committee to the Department, other Government departments and to the Devolved Administrations. In all cases, we shall ensure that the scientists involved continue to provide independent scientific advice on the effects of radiation.

Health: VAT

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the increase in the rate of VAT in the next spending review period. [19615]

Anne Milton: We are working through the detail of the impact of the VAT increase on those national health service services which are affected in conjunction with NHS organisations. The results of this work will feed into NHS financial planning in the new year.

HIV Infection: Older People

Gavin Barwell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether his Department has plans to improve the treatment of older people who are living with HIV/AIDS. [18617]

Anne Milton: Older people with HIV receive treatment in line with guidelines produced by the British HIV Association. In 2009 almost one in five adults with HIV were aged 50 years or older compared to one in seven adults in 2005 and one in ten in 2000. Earlier this year the Terrence Higgins Trust (THT) and Joseph Rowntree Foundation published the "50 Plus" report on ageing and HIV which provides useful insights for planners and commissioners of HIV services for older people.

The Department has funded the THT to develop a national HIV Long Term Condition Management Programme, including tackling HIV-related health inequalities, stigma and discrimination.

Hospitals: Bury

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many hospital-related infections were recorded in hospitals in Bury North constituency in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and how many such infections resulted in the death of a patient. [19254]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on all healthcare associated infections (HCAIs) is not collected centrally. The mandatory surveillance system collects data on the following from acute trusts only: methicillin-resistant *Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) bacteraemias; *Clostridium difficile* infections (CDIs); glycopeptide-resistant enterococci bacteraemias (GREs); and selected orthopaedic surgical site infections (SSIs).

Data for calendar years 2007, 2008 and 2009 for Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust are shown in the following tables.

Information on deaths associated with HCAIs is not collected routinely.

Table 1

Number of total MRSA bacteraemia reports by calendar year

	MRSA bacteraemia reports			
National health service trust	*January to December 2007*	*January to December 2008*	*January to December 2009*	*Total*
Pennine Acute Hospitals	88	45	29	162

Number of trust apportioned MRSA bacteraemia reports by calendar year (available from April 2008 only)

	MRSA bacteraemia reports		
National health service trust	*April to December 2008*	*January to December 2009*	*Total*
Pennine Acute Hospitals	19	15	34

Table 2

Number of total CDI reports by calendar year for patients aged 65+

	CDI reports			
National health service trust	*January to December 2007*	*January to December 2008*	*January to December 2009*	*Total*
Pennine Acute Hospitals	555	546	448	1,549

Number of total apportioned CDI reports by calendar year for patients aged 2+ (available from April 2007 only)

	Trust appointed CDI reports			
National health service trust	*April to December 2007*	*January to December 2008*	*January to December 2009*	*Total*
Pennine Acute Hospitals	293	392	290	975

Table 3

Annual counts of GRE bacteraemia by reporting year

	GRE bacteraemia reports			
National health service trust	*1 October 2006 to 30 September 2007*	*1 October 2007 to 30 September 2008*	*1 October 2008 to 30 September 2009*	*Total*
Pennine Acute Hospitals	11	4	2	17

Table 4

Surveillance of SSIs in orthopaedic categories—number of operations, infections and rates by category

				SSIs: In-patient or readmission SSI	
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	*Number of quarters in which trust participated*	*Category*	*Number of operations*	*Number*	*Percentage*
2007-08	4	Hip prosthesis	293	3	1.0
	4	Knee prosthesis	439	0	0.0
	4	Hip hemiarthroplasty	187	11	5.9
2008-09	4	Hip prosthesis	477	9	1.9
	4	Knee prosthesis	610	2	0.3
	1[1]	Hip hemiarthroplasty[1]	50	4	8.0
	3[2]	Repair of neck of femur[2]	353	23	6.5
Total			2,409	52	

Notes:

(a) It is not easy to ascertain where an infection has been acquired and these datasets include both infections acquired in hospital and in other settings. However, the MRSA and CDI system now allow for indirect identification of cases that may have been acquired within the reporting trust by calculating the elapsed time between a patient's admission date and specimen date.

(b) While MRSA bacteraemias and CDI present on admission can be identified, a proportion of these are likely associated with a previous hospital admission.

Table 1:

Data are as extracted from the HCAI Data Capture System on 19 April 2010, except for the total number of MRSA bacteraemia reports for 2007 which was extracted on 16 July 2009.

Table 2:

Data are as extracted from the HCAI data capture system on 19 April 2010, except for the total number of CDI reports for patients aged 65+ in 2007 which was extracted on 16 July 2009.

Table 3:

Data are as extracted from the HCAI data capture system on 7 June 2010.

Table 4:

[1] Hip Hemiarthroplasty April-June 2008

[2] Repair of neck of femur July 2008-March 2009

Notes:

1. NHS trusts are required to undertake surveillance in at least one quarter per year in one surgical category for the mandatory surveillance on SSI in orthopaedic categories. The minimum requirement allows trusts to balance their resources.
2. Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust was able to undertake continuous surveillance since mandatory surveillance of SSI in orthopaedic categories began in 2004. Trusts are encouraged to undertake continuous surveillance to allow more precise rates to be estimated from a larger set of cumulative data.
3. Post-discharge surveillance was introduced in July 2008 across all hospitals. As a result, the main outcome measure now used for performance purposes is based on inpatient SSIs combined with readmission SSIs.
4. The repair of neck femur category replaced hip hemiarthroplasty from July 2008.

Source:

Health Protection Agency

Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisations in carrying out its functions. [19202]

Anne Milton: No recent assessment has been made of the effectiveness of the Joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation (JCVI) as a whole. The JCVI chair undertakes annual appraisals of members' performance and the Department carries out an annual appraisal of the JCVI chair's performance. Regular meetings held between the chair of JCVI and staff of the Department contribute to the effective performance of the JCVI's functions.

The Department's review of Advisory Non-Departmental Public Bodies (ANDPBs), announced 14 October 2010, considered the JCVI and recommended it be reconstituted as a Department of Health/Public Health Service committee of experts.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the ANDPBs we will be implementing a periodic review process (three yearly) of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness. Wherever possible this will be conducted by an independent expert.

Medical Treatments

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many procedures using drug eluting balloons *(a)* above and *(b)* below the knee have taken place in each NHS trust in the latest year for which figures are available. [19357]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Members: Correspondence

Hilary Benn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when the Food Standards Agency (FSA) plans to reply to the e-mail from the hon. Member for Leeds Central, acknowledged by the FSA on 8 June 2010, on the labelling of alcoholic drinks. [19516]

Anne Milton: The chair of the Food Standards Agency, Lord Jeff Rooker, replied to the right hon. Member on 20 October 2010 with his apologies.

Mental Health Services: Prisons

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the future of mental health provision in prisons. [19700]

Paul Burstow: Department of Health and Ministry of Justice Ministers and senior officials have had discussions about the provision of mental health services in prisons as part of the development of the forthcoming Ministry of Justice sentencing and rehabilitation Green Paper and the cross-Government mental health strategy.

National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care in carrying out its functions. [19201]

Mr Simon Burns: In accordance with the Department's normal practice in relation to its arm's length bodies, the National Information Governance Board for Health and Social Care (NIGB) is subject to regular reviews of its activities and performance. The overall performance of NIGB is deemed to be satisfactory.

NHS: Advertising

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the cost-effectiveness of NHS expenditure on radio advertising; and if he will make a statement. [19431]

Anne Milton: No central assessment has been conducted by the Department of cost-effectiveness of national health service expenditure on radio advertising by the NHS. Since local NHS organisations are responsible for the mix of channels which are selected for any advertising they deem necessary some NHS organisations may have carried out such research. However any such assessments are not held centrally by the Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost. We do nevertheless expect NHS organisations to seek the best value for money from their advertising and to evaluate the effectiveness of any campaigns as a whole.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department expects to have spent on *(a)* radio advertising by the NHS and *(b)* other advertising not related to job vacancies in 2010-11. [19507]

Anne Milton: The Department does not hold records of national health service spending on radio or other advertising centrally and this information could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The Department does however expect NHS organisations to seek the best value for money from any advertising they deem necessary.

NHS: Finance

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the *(a)* absolute cash, *(b)* percentage cash, *(c)* real terms percentage and *(d)* real terms absolute reduction to the NHS capital budget in respect of the next spending review period. [19598]

Mr Simon Burns: The following table shows the requested information.

The Department of Health control total capital departmental expenditure level (CDEL)

Departmental spending review CDEL (£ million)	*2010-11*	*2011-12*	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*	*Total change 2010-11 to 2014-15*
Nominal/cash CDEL	5,122	4,429	4,429	4,437	4,648	
Nominal/cash change		-693	0	8	211	-474
Percentage nominal/cash change		-13.5%	0.0%	0.2%	4.8%	-9.3%
Real terms CDEL[1]	5,122	4,344	4,248	4,147	4,232	
Real terms change		-778	-96	-101	85	-890
Percentage real terms change		-15.2%	-2.2%	-2.4%	2.0%	-17.4%

[1] Calculated using Gross Domestic Product forecasts from June 2010 Budget

The cash reduction in departmental capital budget from the 2010-11 baseline is £474 million. The percentage cash reduction is 9.3%. The real terms reduction is 17.4%. The real terms absolute reduction in 2010-11 prices is £890 million.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate his Department has made of the cost to its Department of *(a)* departmental reorganisation and *(b)* the abolition of (i) primary care trusts and (ii) strategic health authorities proposed in the Health White Paper. [19599]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run, including for the structures of primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and the Department. The precise costs of the transition to the new system will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

Four consultations relating to how the new organisations should be designed— specifically covering 'transparency on outcomes', 'liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health' and 'commissioning for patients and regulating healthcare providers'—have recently closed and once the results of these have been analysed we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

A further two consultations on other aspects of reform set out in the White Paper—specifically 'an information revolution' and 'greater choice and control' have recently been launched and will close in January.

NHS: Sick Leave

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many days were lost through sickness absence in the NHS in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [19354]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. The data collected are the sickness absence rate, i.e. the percentage of available working time lost to sickness absence.

The sickness absence rate in the national health service was 4.4%, in the 12 months April 2008 to March 2009 and 4.4% in the 12 months April 2009 to March 2010.

NHS: Spending Review

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health excluding the allocation for social care services from the budget for NHS health care, what estimate he has made of the real terms percentage change *(a)* in the next spending review period and *(b)* from year to year in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15 in respect of his Department's Resource Departmental Expenditure Limit. [19616]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has identified funding of £0.8 billion/£0.9 billion/£1.1 billion/£1.0 billion of health capital funding that has been transferred into health revenue. This health revenue will be spent on measures that support social care and benefit health. For example, the funding includes up to £300 million for reablement.

Funding that is spent on social care also has a health benefit: if the social care system fails, the national health service will face costs from increased hospital admissions and bed blocking. For this reason, the support being given to the NHS is not a case of funding being "taken out" of health care, but of it being used to support health care.

Therefore, it is not appropriate to recalculate growths in the NHS health care budget net of funding earmarked to support social care and benefit health.

Offences Against Children: Suffolk

Dr Poulter: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what services funded by his Department are available to support adults resident in Suffolk who were subjected to sexual abuse in childhood. [19198]

Paul Burstow: Local primary care trusts (PCTs) are responsible for assessing and commissioning health services to meet the needs of the local population and that includes support for adults who were subject to sexual abuse in childhood.

The Department is providing up to £1.6 million in 2010-11 to improve access to and the quality of sexual assault referral centres (SARCs). SARCs provide a one stop location where victims of sexual assault can receive forensic medical examinations, access to crisis workers and follow up support counselling. Survivors of historic abuse will be able to access follow up counselling through some SARCs.

East of England Strategic Health Authority has advised that Suffolk PCT and Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT have been able to secure a capital grant to develop a SARC in Ipswich, which will be opening by the end of 2010. The Ipswich SARC will be able to receive referrals or self-referrals to help victims of historic sexual abuse.

Parkinson's Disease

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that people with Parkinson's disease continue to receive care of at least the same standard in subsequent years as has been provided in the last 12 months. [19308]

Paul Burstow: Primary care trust commissioners continue to have responsibility for commissioning services, using the National Service Framework for long-term neurological services, that reflect the needs of their patients living with Parkinson's disease.

In future, outcomes, which the national health service will be expected to achieve, will be set via the NHS Outcomes Framework, and the NHS Commissioning Board will hold general practitioner commissioners to account for delivery through the framework.

Respite Care: Finance

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health by what means he plans to ring-fence the newly allocated budget for respite care; and what mechanisms will be in place for *(a)* application for and *(b)* allocation of funds from that budget. [19040]

Paul Burstow: We have not announced a budget for respite care. We will set out the detail of our plans to support carers in our update of the Carers' Strategy later this year.

Sexual Health and HIV Independent Advisory Group

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV. [19151]

Anne Milton: The Independent Advisory Group on Sexual Health and HIV was set up in 2003 to provide advice and monitor progress on the implementation of "The National Strategy for Sexual Health and HIV (2001)". A formal review of the membership of the advisory group took place in January 2007 renewing some members, including the chair and vice chairs and terminating others. The Department also continuously monitored the performance of the advisory group through attendance at the group's quarterly meetings and through regular contact with the chair.

Following the Department's review of advisory non-departmental public bodies (ANDPBs), this group is to be abolished and replaced by a stakeholder advisory group on sexual health. This group will provide advice to departmental officials rather than direct to Ministers. Terms of reference for the group have yet to be agreed.

As part of the implementation of the changes to the Department's ANDPBs, we will be implementing a periodic review process (three yearly), of all our significant advisory committees and ANDPBs which will incorporate an assessment of performance and effectiveness. Wherever possible this will be conducted by an independent expert.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many new cases of each type of sexually transmitted infection there were in Ealing Southall constituency in each year since 2007. [19061]

Anne Milton: Data are not collected on a constituency basis and it is therefore not possible to provide data for the Ealing Southall constituency. The data available are presented in the following tables. The number of sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in London strategic health authority (SHA) and Ealing primary care trust (PCT) from genitourinary medicine clinics (GUM) are presented in Table 1. The number of Chlamydia diagnoses made in community-based settings (non-GUM sites) are presented in Table 2.

Table 1: Number of STI diagnoses seen at genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics[2], 2007-09

		London SHA		Ealing PCT
	STI diagnoses	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
A1, A2	Primary and secondary infectious syphilis	867	646	7
A3	Early latent syphilis (first 2 years)	348	307	9
A4, A5, A6	Other acquired syphilis	960	818	27
A7	Congenital syphilis, aged under 2	[1]—	[1]—	0
A8	Congenital syphilis, aged 2 or over	[1]—	[1]—	0
A9	Epidemiological treatment of suspected syphilis	482	514	11
B1, B2	Uncomplicated gonorrhoea	6,448	5,571	124
B3	Gonococcal ophthalmia neonatorum	9	12	[1]—
B4	Epidemiological treatment of suspected gonorrhoea	3,167	3,178	62
B5	Complicated gonococcal infection—including pelvic inflammatory disease (PID) and epididymitis	110	109	[1]—
C1, C2, C3	Chancroid/lymphogranuloma venereum (LGV)/Donovanosis	234	170	5
C4A, C4C	Uncomplicated genital chlamydial infection	21,884	21,293	648
C4B	Complicated genital chlamydial infection—including PID and epididymitis	647	659	28
C4D	Chlamydial ophthalmia neonatorum	6	5	[1]—
C4E	Epidemiological treatment of suspected genital chlamydial infection	13,023	12,695	385
C4H	Uncomplicated non-gonococcal/ non-specific urethritis in males, or treatment of mucopurulent cervicitis in females	25,577	20,763	624
C4I	Epidemiological treatment of non-specific genital infection	6,651	5,287	149
C5	Complicated infection (non-chlamydial/non-gonococcal)—including PID and epididymitis	7,148	7,226	242
C6A	Trichomoniasis	2,747	2,575	50
C8, C9	Scabies/pediculosis pubis	609	586	24
C10A	Anogenital herpes simplex—first episode	6,020	6,116	215
C10B	Anogenital herpes simplex—recurrence	4,360	4,400	188
C11A	Anogenital warts—first episode	13,695	13,647	475
C11B	Anogenital warts—recurrence	8,853	8,631	352
C11C	Anogenital warts—re-registered cases	2,975	3,076	117
C12	Molluscum contagiosum	3,258	3,230	98
E1A	New HIV diagnosis—asymptomatic	2,436	1,835	32
E1B	Asymptomatic HIV infection—subsequent presentation	0	0	0
E1BE2B	Subsequent HIV presentation (not AIDS)	18,525	20,197	240
E2A	New HIV diagnosis: symptomatic (not AIDS)	273	302	[1]—
E2B	HIV infection with symptoms, not AIDS—subsequent presentation	0	0	0
E3A	AIDS—first presentation	0	0	0
E3A1	AIDS: first presentation—new HIV diagnosis	106	70	[1]—
E3A2	AIDS: first presentation—HIV diagnosed previously	82	82	[1]—
E3B	AIDS—subsequent presentation	5,476	5,706	57
—	Total new STI diagnoses	92,407	85,105	2,588
—	Total other STI diagnoses	64,574	64,604	1,592

[1] Cell size of 1 to 4 have been masked to protect deductive disclosure in accordance with ONS guidelines for PCT level data.

[2] Data for 2007 and 2008 are presented for London SHA, by SHA of GUM clinic attended. Data for 2009 are presented for patients resident in Ealing PCT.

Notes:

1. The data available from the KC60 (2008 and earlier) and GUMCAD (2009 onwards) returns are for diagnoses made in genitourinary medicine (GUM) clinics only. Diagnoses made in other clinical settings, such as general practice, are not recorded in the GUMCAD dataset.
2. The data available from the KC60 and GUMCAD returns are the number of diagnoses made, not the number of patients diagnosed.
3. Data are available only at the SHA level before 2009.
4. The information provided has been adjusted for missing clinic data.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, KC60 and Genitourinary Medicine Clinic Activity Dataset (GUMCAD) returns. Date of data: 25 August 2010

Table 2. Number of Chlamydia diagnoses in 15 to 24-year-olds resident within Ealing PCT, made in community-based settings, 2007-09

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Community-based Chlamydia diagnoses	24	[1]111	277

[1] Collection of non-NCSP, non-GUM data commenced from April 2008.

Notes:

1. The NCSP has been phased in since 1 April 2003 with all 152 PCTs reporting data to the programme since March 2008. Therefore numbers of diagnoses have risen substantially as the proportion of sexually active under 25-year-olds who have been tested has increased.
2. The data from the NCSP Core Dataset and the Non NCSP Non GUM are for positive Chlamydia screens made outside of GUM clinics.
3. The NCSP data are for positive Chlamydia screens conducted outside of GUM clinics.
4. The data available from the NCSP are the number of diagnoses made and not the number of patients diagnosed.
5. NSCP data exclude those resident outside of England.

Source:

Health Protection Agency, National Chlamydia Screening Programme (NCSP), NCSP returns and Non NCSP Non GUM data. Date of data NCSP Data: 16 August 2010; Non NCSP Non GUM Data: 5 August 2010.

Surgery: North West

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled in hospitals in the North West in 2009; what the cost was of such cancelled operations in that year; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the number of cancelled operations. [19252]

Mr Simon Burns: In 2009, there were a total of 8,689 cancelled operations in the north-west and 63,135 in England. The quarterly breakdown is shown in the following table.

Number of last minute cancelled operations for non-clinical reasons

	Quarter	*Period*	*England*	*North-west*
2008-09	4	January to March 2009	19,863	2,455
2009-10	1	April to June 2009	13,960	2,113
2009-10	2	July to September 2009	13,5[illegible]	1,936
2009-10	3	October to December 2009	15,765	2,185
		Total for 2009	63,135	8,689

Source:
Department of Health dataset quarterly monitoring cancelled operations

Information on the cost of cancelled elective operations is not collected centrally. It is the responsibility of individual national health service trusts to manage the day-to-day running of their organisations. As part of this, they have a responsibility to ensure that they have the necessary staff, theatre space and beds available to keep cancellations to an absolute minimum.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 27 October 2010

CHURCH COMMISSIONERS

Ethical Criteria: Investments

Mr Binley: To ask the hon. Member for Banbury, representing the Church Commissioners, what account the Church Commissioners take of ethical criteria when making investments. [19330]

Tony Baldry: The Church Commissioners are committed to managing our assets in a way that reflects the Church's teaching and values and take advice on ethical investment policies from the Church's Ethical Investment Advisory Group. I would be very happy to send him copies of the latest Advisory Group annual review.

WALES

Departmental Training

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales how much her Department spent on employee training since 1997. [7657]

Mr David Jones: The Wales Office came into existence in 1999 though my Department only holds financial records from 2003 onwards. Since 2003 the Wales Office has spent £122,471 on employee training.

SCOTLAND

Rail Services

13. **Mr Weir:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent representations he has received from representatives of businesses in Scotland on cross-border rail services. [18983]

David Mundell: Both my right. hon. Friend and I have received representations on cross-border rail services from various interests including businesses in Scotland.

Rural Economy

14. **Fiona Bruce:** To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on initiatives to assist the rural economy in Scotland. [18984]

Michael Moore: We are fully committed to improving the lives of people living in rural areas. As an example, the highlands and islands is one of four rural areas in the UK selected to pilot the next generation of high speed broadband. Rolling out superfast broadband is of vital importance in ensuring the sustainability of our rural communities in the 21st century.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Asbestos

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to amend the provisions of the Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations 2002 to distinguish the white form of asbestos and the blue and brown forms of that substance. [16563]

Chris Grayling: The 2002 Control of Asbestos at Work Regulations were replaced by the Control of Asbestos Regulations in 2006.

The existing regulatory approach is based on evidence of risk and already distinguishes between different types of asbestos-containing materials depending on both the type of asbestos they contain, and the propensity for fibres to be released if the material is disturbed or damaged. The regulations allow work on lower risk materials, such as bonded white asbestos cement, to be undertaken with less stringent controls than those which apply to higher risk materials.

This recognises the evidence which shows there is a substantially lower risk associated with white asbestos for a given amount of exposure in comparison with blue and brown asbestos. This does not, however, equate to no risk.

There is, at present, international scientific consensus on the classification of asbestos as carcinogenic, which informs government policy. We will keep this under review and until the consensus changes, the Secretary of State has no plans to amend the regulations.

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will commission an inquiry into the appropriateness of the health and safety precautions in force in respect of asbestos cement. [18119]

Chris Grayling: The current requirements contained in the Control of Asbestos Regulations 2006, which apply to asbestos cement products, implement the European Codified Directive 2009/148/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to asbestos at work. The 2006 regulations were the subject of public consultation and the requirements were framed in accordance with the responses received as far as the directive allowed.

There is, at present, international scientific consensus on the classification of asbestos, which informs government policy. No significant new evidence has since been presented to suggest that the present health and safety precautions should be reviewed. We will keep this under review and until the consensus changes, the Secretary of State has no plans to amend the regulations.

Employment Schemes: North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what support will be provided to assist people into work in the North East, prior to the introduction of the Work Programme in the North East; and if he will make a statement. [19301]

Chris Grayling: The Work Programme aims to simplify the back to work system by replacing many of the current schemes. These include Flexible New Deal (FND), New Deals for Jobseeker's Allowance customers and Employment Zones which will be phased out and replaced by the Work Programme by summer 2011. Pathways to Work will be phased out and folded into the new arrangements in the first half of next year. We are working with our delivery partners to give continuity of support until transition to the Work Programme. We intend for support to be available for all customers during the transition to the Work Programme.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit: Fraud

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will assess the merits of ring-fencing the funding allocated to local authorities for the detection of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit fraud. [18100]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not ring-fence the funding allocated to local authorities for the detection of *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit fraud. We combine the funding for all aspects of administering these benefits to give local authorities the flexibility to respond to local circumstances.

The Department published a new fraud and error strategy on 18 October 2010. The strategy includes the Department's plans for improving detection of fraud across all benefits, including housing benefit and council tax benefit.

Poverty: Children

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what recent estimate he has made of the number of children *(a)* in absolute poverty, *(b)* in relative poverty and *(c)* with combined material deprivation and low income in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency; [16319]

(2) how many children are living in poverty *(a)* before and *(b)* after housing costs in Cumbernauld, Kilsyth and Kirkintilloch East constituency. [16320]

Maria Miller: Estimates of the number and proportion of children living in poverty in Scotland are published in 'Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2008-09'. This uses household income adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, to provide a proxy for standard of living.

As they are based on survey data, child poverty estimates published in 'Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland' do not allow analysis by parliamentary constituency. However, figures for Scotland are set out in the following table.

Number and percentage of children living in (a) relative poverty before housing costs (BHC) and after housing costs (AHC) (b) absolute poverty (BHC and AHC) and (c) combined material deprivation and low income in Scotland

Number of children—thousand (percentage)

	Relative poverty		*Absolute poverty*		*Combined material deprivation and low income*
Period	*BHC*	*AHC*	*BHC*	*AHC*	
2006-07 to 2008-09	210 (21%)	260 (26%)	110 (11%)	150 (15%)	160 (16%)

Notes:

1. The source of this information is the Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2008-09 publication.
2. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series, which uses disposable household income, adjusted (or 'equivalised') for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living.
3. The figures are based on OECD equivalisation factors.
4. Figures are based on survey data and as such are subject to a degree of sampling and non-sampling error.
5. Numbers of children in low-income households have been rounded to the nearest 10,000 children.
6. Each of the measures is defined as:

Relative poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of contemporary median household income.

Absolute poverty: percentage of children living in households with less than 60% of 1998-99 median household income held constant in real terms

Low Income and Material Deprivation: percentage of children living in households in material deprivation and with less than 70% of contemporary median household income, before housing costs.

7. Income after housing costs (AHC) is derived by deducting a measure of housing costs from the before housing costs (BHC) measure of income. These include (1) rent (gross of housing benefit), (2) water rates, community water charges and council water charges, (3) mortgage interest payments, and (4) structural insurance premiums (for owner occupiers), ground rent and service charges.
8. BHC and AHC figures are given for the relative and absolute poverty measures. The combined material deprivation and low income measure is defined using before housing costs income.

Source:

Poverty and Income Inequality in Scotland: 2008-09

Social Security Benefits: Guardianship

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of benefits for relatives who are permitted by social services to act as guardians to children in the *(a)* short, *(b)* medium and *(c)* long term; and if he will make a statement. [16921]

Maria Miller: We acknowledge that people who are permitted by social services to provide 'kinship' care for children of relatives undertake an extremely valuable role, often taking on this responsibility in difficult circumstances. Such carers are usually entitled to benefits available to birth parents, including child benefit, child tax credits or pension credit, subject to meeting the normal conditions of entitlement. Relevant discussions with ministerial colleagues have therefore focused on wider issues concerning benefits for parents.

Social Security Benefits: Haematological Cancer

Sir Menzies Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the estimated annual cost is to his Department of providing financial support for a patient with a poor diagnosis of haematological cancer. [17746]

Chris Grayling: I refer my right hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 766W. A wide range of support is available to disabled and ill people. The way benefits are awarded and data are collected means that we are unable to provide an estimated annual cost of the financial support for a patient with the particular condition of haematological cancer.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* farmers, *(b)* directors, *(c)* partners and *(d)* spouses worked in each agricultural sector in each of the last five years. [18497]

Mr Paice: DEFRA only collects data on the total number of farmers, partners, directors and spouses working on agricultural holdings. The number by farm type for the last five years is shown in the following table:

Number of principal farmers, partners, directors and spouses working on agricultural holdings in England 2005-09

Thousand

Farm type	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Cereals	34	34	35	35	36
General cropping	15	15	14	13	13
Horticulture	15	15	13	13	14
Specialist pigs	3	3	3	4	4
Specialist poultry	10	9	9	10	10
Dairy	26	26	21	20	20
Grazing livestock (less favoured areas)	19	21	21	20	20
Grazing livestock (lowlands)	53	50	47	46	45
Mixed	20	19	16	16	16
Other farm types	29	32	40	42	44
Total	223	224	219	220	223

Source:
DEFRA June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture

Farm type is classified by the predominant farming activity taking place on the holding, based on economic measure and profitability (standard gross margin, SGM). The farm type is defined as the activity which contributes more than two thirds of the total SGM for the holding.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs when she expects to publish her Department's strategy for sustainable food production; and if she will make a statement. [19782]

Mr Paice: The Government have made it a Structural Reform Plan priority to support UK agriculture and encourage a sustainable increase in production to meet demand. We will take a coherent whole food chain approach in developing actions to take this forward.

Agriculture: Overtime

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average monthly overtime payments were for a worker employed in each of the six agricultural wages grades in each of the last five years. [19784]

Mr Paice: We do not have a breakdown of the average monthly overtime payments for workers employed in each of the six agricultural wages grades in each of the last five years. However, details for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are set out in the following table.

Overtime pay

(£ per month)

Grade	*2007*[1]	*2008*[2]	*2009*[3]
1	48	147	104
2	165	195	178
3	204	221	290
4	351	403	529
5	260	277	312
6	286	208	221

[1] Based on data from 4 quarters for the year, to January 2008.

[2] Based on data from 4 quarters of the year, to January 2009

[3] Based on data from 4 quarters of the year, to September 2009. Due to changes in the structure and publication of the Earning and Hours survey, there was no survey in January 2010. These are the latest figures available.

Note:
Figures are given for permanent, full time staff only. These figures are based on a sample survey, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error. Pay information is standardised to a weekly equivalent, but for this table has been converted to pay per calendar month.
Source:
DEFRA Survey of Earnings and Hours of agricultural workers

Agriculture: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the average wage was for a worker employed in each of the six agricultural wages grades in each of the last five years. [19785]

Mr Paice: We do not have a breakdown of the average wage for workers employed in each of the six agricultural wages grades in each of the last five years. However, details for the years 2007, 2008 and 2009 are set out in the following table:

Average pay

£ per month

Grade	*2007*[1]	*2008*[2]	*2009*[3]
1	997	1,101	1,187
2	1,317	1,404	1,387
3	1,491	1,521	1,642
4	1,612	1,777	2,011
5	1,694	1,772	1,790
6	1,954	1,183	1,517

[1] Based on data from four quarters of the year, to January 2008.

[2] Based on data from four quarters of the year, to January 2009.

[3] Based on data from four quarters of the year, to September 2009. Due to changes in the structure and publication of the Earning and Hours survey, there was no survey in January 2010. These are the latest figures available.

Note:
Figures are given for permanent, full time staff only. These figures are based on a sample survey, and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error. Pay information is standardised to a weekly equivalent, but for this table has been converted to pay per calendar month.
Source:
DEFRA Survey of Earnings and Hours of agricultural workers.

Bees

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to retain BeeBase as a voluntary registration scheme for beekeepers; [18823]

(2) how many beekeepers have registered on BeeBase since its creation; [18825]

(3) what steps her Department is taking to increase the number of active beekeepers registered on BeeBase. [18826]

Mr Paice: The Food and Environment Research Agency's (Fera's) National Bee Unit's BeeBase database is a vital tool in controlling bee pests and diseases. Knowing the location of apiaries is essential if these harmful organisms are to be controlled quickly and effectively. An action plan is in place to increase the number of beekeepers who are voluntarily registered on the database. Depending on the success of this plan, compulsory registration may be considered but current policy remains one of encouraging voluntary registration.

The action plan, which is a key part of the Healthy Bees Plan, includes the National Bee Unit's bee inspectors encouraging beekeepers to register, and a campaign by Fera in partnership with beekeeping stakeholders to raise awareness of BeeBase, and promote its aims and benefits. As a result, BeeBase registrations are increasing.

Since its creation in 1992, BeeBase has been regularly updated to reflect the turnover in beekeepers and currently over 21,000 beekeepers are registered compared to approx 18,000 in 2008.

Bovine Tuberculosis

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many *(a)* cases of positive bovine tuberculosis and *(b)* inconclusive reactor cattle were identified in the latest period in which figures are available. [18637]

Mr Paice: The number of cattle slaughtered in England from 1 January to 31 July 2010 under bovine tuberculosis control measures as test reactors and inconclusive reactors is shown in the following table.

	Number
Reactors	13,984
Inconclusive reactors	117

Note:
Figures are subject to change as more data become available.
Source:
VetNet—Animal Health database (downloaded 20 October 2010).

Carbon Emissions: Business

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to introduce mandatory reporting of carbon dioxide emissions by UK-listed companies; and if she will make a statement. [19718]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* We are yet to take a decision on whether to introduce regulations requiring companies to report their greenhouse gas emissions.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18412]

Richard Benyon: From the information held centrally and by the Department's Executive Agencies, the following table shows expenditure on overseas visits by senior officials (SCS grade) in the financial year 2009-10.

	£
DEFRA	506,746
Animal Health	162
Food and Environment Research Agency	719
Veterinary Medicines Directorate	9,376
Veterinary Laboratories Agency	3,325
Centre for Environment Fisheries and Aquaculture Science	1,670
Rural Payments Agency	4,734
Total	526,732

All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management code.

Livestock: Waste Disposal

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the monetary value was of payments in respect of animals disposed of under the National Fallen Stock Scheme in each of the last five years. [18520]

Mr Paice: The information requested is not held by DEFRA. The National Fallen Stock Scheme is operated by the National Fallen Stock Co. and requests for such information should be directed to the company.

Wood

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to regulate the sale of timber obtained from illegal logging; [19313]

(2) whether she plans to bring forward legislative proposals to prohibit the purchase of timber obtained from illegal logging. [19846]

Mr Paice: We will put in place the necessary legislation to implement the provisions of the EU Illegal Timber (Due Diligence) Regulation in the United Kingdom. This underlines our commitment to eliminating illegal timber from the UK market. The Regulation prohibits the first-placing of illegal timber on the EU market, restricting its purchase and sale down the supply chain.

ELECTORAL COMMISSION COMMITTEE

Electoral Systems

Mr Bone: To ask the hon. Member for South West Devon, representing the Speaker's Committee on the Electoral Commission, what recent discussions the Electoral Commission has had on allowing electors who have not yet voted but who are within the precinct of the polling station at the close of a poll to cast their votes. [19296]

Mr Streeter: In May 2010 the Electoral Commission recommended that the relevant rules for all elections in the UK should be amended to allow any elector who is entitled to vote at a polling station and who is in the queue to enter the polling station at the close of poll, to cast a vote.

The Electoral Commission informs me that it has discussed this issue with the Deputy Prime Minister, the Minister for Political and Constitutional Reform and with a range of other interested parties, including Members of Parliament, Returning Officers, Government officials and electoral administrators.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since his Department's inception; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary value was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year. [18773]

Mr Davey: An element of the BIS overall pay award for staff below the SCS is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. There are two types of award:

1. Annual performance awards, that reward staff who achieve a highly successful annual performance rating.
2. In-year awards that recognise strong performance in particularly demanding tasks or situations.

These non-consolidated variable pay awards are used to drive high performance and do not add to future pay bill costs, as they are funded from within existing pay bill controls, and have to be re-earned each year against pre-determined targets. The payments made for both types of award are entirely related to staff performance. The in-year scheme was suspended on 9 July and no payments have been made to staff since that date.

Performance awards for the SCS are part of the pay system across the whole senior civil service, and are used to reward high performance sustained throughout the year, based on judgments about how well an individual has performed relative to their peers. The performance related pay scheme is designed to help drive high performance and support better public service delivery. Performance awards are non-consolidated and non pensionable. The percentage of the pay bill set aside for performance-related awards for the SCS is based on recommendations from the independent Senior Salaries Review Body.

The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS)

BIS was formed through a machinery of government (MoG) change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

The following table shows the number of payments that were made in BIS to non-SCS staff and the costs to the Department in 2009-10.

	Number of awards	*Amount (£)*
In-year performance awards paid between April 2009 and March 2010	884	438,324
Annual performance awards paid in August 2009	1,006	1,326,510
Total spend	—	1,764,834

The following table shows the cost and number of payments that were made to staff via the in year scheme in 2010/11 before it was suspended on 9 July.

	Number of awards	*Amount (£)*
In-year performance awards paid between April 2010 and July 2010	288	147,585
Total spend		147,585

No annual performance payments have yet been made to non-SCS staff in 2010-11.

For 2009-10 the Senior Salaries Review Body advised Departments that up to 8.6% of their SCS pay bill could be used for non-consolidated awards for the SCS. In BIS just under 5% was actually awarded.

SCS 2009/10 performance awards paid in July 2010

Number of awards	*Amount(£)*
162	969,946

The following table shows the top 20 performance payments that were made to BIS staff in 2010.

SCS performance year 1 April 2009 to 31 March 2010 with payments made July 2010

Payment	£
1	16,500
2	15,875
3	15,000
4	14,500
5	14,000
6	13,000
7	12,436
8	11,500
9	10,500
10	10,500
11	10,150
12	10,148
13	9,338
14	9,000
15	9,000
16	9,000
17	9,000
18	9,000
19	9,000
20	9,000

A small number of individuals are employed on non-standard SCS contracts which link a higher percentage of their pay to delivery based objectives.

The Department has not made any non-consolidated payments to staff outside of the arrangements described above unless they have been part of contractual severance arrangements.

The information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Helicopters: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much launch aid has been repaid to his Department from the EH101 helicopter project. [19854]

Mr Prisk: Details of the repayment terms of the launch investment contracts are commercially confidential. However, no repayments have yet been made on the EH101 contract.

Higher Education: Admissions

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future cap on the number of funded places for universities in England; and if he will make a statement. [19757]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will receive its annual grant letter for 2011-12 by January 2011. It will set out the number of funded places for that year. Plans for the longer term will be set out in the Higher Education White Paper this winter.

Higher Education: Bexley

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what percentage of school leavers in the London borough of Bexley progressed to university within 12 months of leaving school in the last period for which figures are available. [19533]

Mr Willetts: It is estimated 56% of students from Bexley local authority who were aged 17, studying two or more A levels at English schools in 2005/06, progressed to Higher Education in 2006/07.

This figure is taken from matched data from the National Pupil Database, the Higher Education Statistics Agency Student Record and the Individualised Learner Record. The figure includes students who progress to HE level courses at English Further Education Colleges.

Higher Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the administration of *(a)* the system of higher education funding and student finance proposed in the Browne Review and *(b)* the current system in 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [19759]

Mr Willetts: The administration budgets for 2011-12 for both the Higher Education Funding Council for England and the Student Loans Company have not yet been set. We will consider the longer term costs in the context of the Government's response to Lord Browne's review. However, the outcome of the comprehensive spending review for the Department requires a reduction of around a third in the administration budgets of BIS's arm's length bodies over the CSR period.

Higher Education: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) how many students normally resident in *(a)* London, *(b)* Lambeth and *(c)* Streatham constituency applied during academic year 2009-10 for university entry in (i) autumn 2010 and (ii) autumn 2011; [18552]

(2) how many students normally resident in *(a)* London, *(b)* Lambeth and *(c)* Streatham constituency who applied during academic year 2009-10 for university entry in autumn 2010 and autumn 2011 were not offered a place. [18553]

Mr Willetts: The information is in the following table.

The figures cover applicants applying during the 2010 application cycle, which runs from September 2009 to October 2010, to enter courses beginning in autumn 2010 or, on the basis of deferred entry, autumn 2011 (they do not include people applying during the 2011 application cycle).

Applicants from London, Lambeth and Streatham applying to full-time undergraduate courses starting in autumn 2010 and autumn 2011 via the Universities and Colleges Admission Service (UCAS)

		Year of entry		
Data	*Domicile/ parliamentary constituency*	*2010*	*2011*	*Total*
Applicants	London	90,859	6,379	97,238
	Lambeth	3,357	276	3,633
	Streatham	1,290	100	1,390
Unplaced applicants	London	28,591	2,906	31,497
	Lambeth	1,158	126	1,284
	Streatham	422	49	471

Notes:

1. The data presented are for the provisional end of year 2010 captured on 13 October 2010. Final data on entry for the 2010 cycle will be available from 20 January 2011.
2. "London" and "Lambeth" have been identified using the declared area of permanent residence (domicile).
3. "Streatham" has been identified using the home postcode.
4. Only applicants with at least one autumn 2010 or autumn 2011 choice (ie application) have been reported for that year of entry ie those with only choices starting in January have been excluded. Applicants may be reported in 2010 and 2011 if they had made both a current year and a deferred entry choice, which may result in some applicants being counted twice.
5. "Unplaced applicants" will include: individuals who do not receive any offer; individuals who receive an offer (conditional or unconditional) but decide not to go to university in either 2010 or 2011; and individuals who receive a conditional offer and fail to meet the specific conditions (eg they do not achieve certain grades).

Source:
UCAS

Internet

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which officials from his Department attended the fifth annual Internet Governance Forum meeting; and what the outcome was of discussions at that meeting. [18020]

Mr Vaizey: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 916W.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he plans to reply to the letter of 13 September 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Ms D Burton. [19862]

Mr Davey: We regret that we could find no record of his correspondence. The right hon. Member kindly sent me the correspondence again, and I can confirm that the matters raised by his constituent are the responsibility of the Department for Education.

I understand that the right hon. Member has also sent his constituent's concerns to that Department and I can confirm that my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education will respond.

Paternity Leave

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills, pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 335W, on paternity leave, how many business owners employing fewer than 10 people were spoken to directly regarding the policy on additional paternity leave. [19786]

Mr Davey: A consultation on additional paternity leave was launched in September 2009 ahead of the introduction to Parliament of draft regulations introducing additional paternity leave. All business owners were given the opportunity to respond to the consultation.

Of the 111 responses received, 4.5% were from business owners with 0-9 employees.

Further details on the responses to the consultation can be found at

www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/employment-matters/docs/10-567-additional-paternity-leave-response.pdf

Previous consultations took place in 2005, 2006 and 2008 on proposals to introduce additional paternity leave to which all business owners were invited to respond.

Postgraduate Education: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the potential effects of implementation of the Browne Review recommendations on funding for *(a)* the teaching of postgraduate study and *(b)* postgraduate student maintenance; and if he will make a statement. [19760]

Mr Willetts: The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will receive its annual grant letter setting out its allocation of teaching grant and other funding lines for 2011-12 by January 2011. Lord Browne considered the student support regime for postgraduate students. However, he concluded that no changes were required as there was little evidence of a detrimental impact on access to postgraduate education. They will however continue to benefit from access to Professional and Career Development Loans.

Royal Mail

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the future ownership of the Royal Mail; and if he will make a statement. [19739]

Mr Davey: The Government have discussed developments in the postal market and Royal Mail's role in that market with a range of interested parties, including Royal Mail, the unions, other mail operators, Postcomm, Ofcom and Consumer Focus in recent months. We also asked Richard Hooper to update his independent report on the future of the universal service. Our policy on ownership was set out in the policy statement that we published alongside introduction of the Postal Services Bill on 13 October.

Copies of this statement "Delivering for the future—a universal mail service and community post offices in the digital age" were laid in the House Libraries and it can also be viewed on the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills website at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/d/10-1206-delivering-universal-mail-service-community-post-offices.pdf

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has modelled the effects on the disposable income of new students aged over 30 years of increasing tuition fees to *(a)* £7,000, *(b)* £8,000, *(c)* £9,000, *(d)* £10,000, *(e)* £11,000 and *(f)* £12,000 per annum. [19762]

Mr Willetts: Income contingent student loan borrowers are not required to pay back their loan until the April after they finish their course. Repayments are based on 9% of income above the threshold of £15,000 per annum (or monthly/weekly equivalent). The following table provides examples of how much a borrower would expect to repay each month based on repayments of 9% of income over the current £15,000 threshold; and how much a borrower may expect to repay if the threshold was raised to £21,000, as proposed in the Browne review of higher education funding and student finance.

Repayments are linked directly to a borrower's income and not the size of the loan, hence the size of the loan does not affect the borrower's disposable income.

		£
	Monthly repayments	
Annual income	*£15,000 threshold (current)*	*£21,000 threshold (Browne proposal)*
£15,000	0.00	0.00
£18,000	22.50	0.00
£21,000	45.00	0.00
£25,000	75.00	30.00
£30,000	112.50	67.50
£50,000	262.50	217.50

CABINET OFFICE

Departmental Sick Leave

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many days on average were lost to sickness in organisations in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [19353]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your question concerning how many days on average were lost to sickness in organisations in (a) the private and (b) the public sector in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. 019353.

Data concerning the number of days lost to sickness are not available from ONS surveys.

Jobseeker's Allowance

John Stevenson: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many people in *(a)* the UK, *(b)* Cumbria and *(c)* Carlisle constituency have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance since January 2010. [17800]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many people in (a) the UK, (b) the county of Cumbria and (c) Carlisle constituency have been in receipt of jobseeker's allowance since January 2010. (017800)

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) compiles the number of claimants of Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) from the Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Table 1 shows the number of persons resident in (a) the UK, (b) the county of Cumbria and, (c) Carlisle constituency who were in receipt of JSA in each month since January 2010. The data have been provided from January 2010 to the latest available period up to September 2010.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Table 1. Number of persons claiming jobseeker's allowance residing in the UK, the county of Cumbria and Carlisle constituency

2010	*UK*	*Cumbria*	*Carlisle*
January	1,654,025	8,786	1,852
February	1,657,041	8,791	1,827
March	1,614,852	8,452	1,767
April	1,568,128	8,216	1,735
May	1,502,155	7,901	1,756
June	1,444,096	7,572	1,694
July	1,441,035	7,639	1,713
August	1,456,023	7,803	1,698
September	1,439,601	7,595	1,656

Source:
Jobcentre Plus administrative system.

Personnel

Graham Evans: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans the Government has to reduce its costs by sharing human resource services between departments and agencies. [19575]

Mr Maude: The Government are committed to reducing the cost of human resource services by implementing new shared arrangements for the delivery of core functions, including learning and development, HR policy development and e-resourcing, across Departments and agencies from the next financial year.

Public Bodies: Procurement

Dr Pugh: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what plans he has to reduce the cost to public bodies of the procurement process. [18501]

Mr Maude: To reduce the cost of the procurement process to public bodies we are centralising the procurement of common goods and services across government, using our combined purchasing power to get the best value for every pound we spend.

We will be acting on the recommendations made by Sir Philip Green, and have begun work to streamline and accelerate the procurement process, to reduce costs to departments and suppliers and therefore secure the efficient delivery of future contracts.

To reduce the costs to the public purse of current contracts we have implemented a programme of structured negotiations with the major suppliers to Government to identify immediate and sustainable cost reductions.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Elections: Expenditure

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what recent estimate he has made of the costs of holding elections to the House of Commons under *(a)* first-past-the-post and *(b)* proportional representation systems. [19408]

Mr Harper: Based on the information set out in the Parliamentary Elections (Returning Officers' Charges) Order 2010 the estimated cost of holding a stand-alone UK parliamentary election in Great Britain under the first past the post system is £89.6 million.

The Government have not made any estimate of the cost of conducting elections to the House of Commons under a proportional representation system.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since his Department's inception. [18794]

Gregory Barker: We are unable to provide information requested about dismissals as totals of five or less are suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality under section 40 of the Data Protection Act. However staff may be dismissed for poor performance, poor attendance, gross misconduct or repeated misconduct

We are unable to provide the other information requested as responsibility for commencing capability and minor disciplinary procedures rests with line management across the Department. No records have been collated centrally regarding how many procedures are initiated in the Department since its inception in October 2008.

HEALTH

Tobacco: Sales

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the implementation of the provisions in the Health Act 2009 in respect of the *(a)* prohibition of sales of tobacco products from vending machines and *(b)* prohibition of point of sale tobacco displays; and if he will make a statement. [19817]

Anne Milton: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State regularly meets with his entire ministerial team and colleagues across government to discuss a range of matters, including those relating to public health.

Autism: Children

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to reduce the average age at which autism in children is diagnosed. [19253]

Paul Burstow: The Department has commissioned specific training from the Royal College of Psychiatrists and the British Psychological Society on the recognition, diagnosis and health needs of people with autism presenting to mental health services. The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence is currently developing a clinical guideline on autism spectrum disorders in children and young people. This will be based on a thorough assessment of the available evidence.

Carers: Learning Disabilities

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps he plans to take to assist *(a)* elderly carers and *(b)* other people with learning disabilities; [19285]

(2) what mechanisms his Department has in place to assist carers who wish to make contingency plans for circumstances in which they predecease the person for whom they are caring; [19286]

(3) what assistance his Department provides for carers of people with learning disabilities who are from black and minority ethnic communities. [19287]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government continue to support the aims of the Valuing People Now programme, originally published in January 2009. This sets out the cross Government commitment to help people with learning disabilities have control over their lives and the care they receive. The three top priorities continue to be health, housing and employment.

The Department is also currently updating the Carers Strategy. The revised strategy will outline ways in which all carers, including older carers and those from ethnic minority communities, can be supported in their caring role. Carers often feel more comfortable seeking advice and support from a voluntary sector and the Department funds a number of voluntary organisations who offer support to older carers and carers from ethnic minority communities.

There are a number of voluntary sector organisations who support families to make contingency arrangements for the ongoing care of someone after the death of their carer. For example, MENCAP offer advice about wills and setting up trusts. They also support local voluntary organisations, enabling them to provide advice to families within their local communities.

Clinical Wastes: Recycling

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the potential to increase the proportion of medically related waste that is recycled. [19577]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects data on national health service related waste disposal and recycling rates through the Estates Returns Information Collection system. Data analysis shows a significant increase in recycling from 11% in 2008-09 to 18% for 2009-10, with a corresponding reduction in waste disposal as follows:

Waste disposal route	*Percentage reduction from 2008-09 to 2009-10*
High temperature disposal	1.7
Alternative non-burn technology	2.8
Landfill	13.1

The Department provides guidance on the management of waste in 'Health Technical Memorandum: 07-01 Safe management of healthcare waste', which has already been placed in the Library.

The Government will incentivise waste producers to reduce their waste through a number of measures including the landfill tax and legislation covering the polluter pays principle, which will give waste producers greater responsibility for waste production and their choice to use sustainable waste management options. The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', empowers providers, giving them more autonomy and, in return, making them more accountable for the results they achieve to the public at local level.

Health Services: Young People

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will review the process used to classify as children or adults 15 and 16-year-olds who are receiving continuous health treatment for an ongoing condition. [19589]

Anne Milton: The national health service manages transitions for children with long-term conditions from child to adult services flexibly, starting at an age suitable for each child, taking account of individual circumstances and the need to ensure there is a period over which the transition can be successfully managed. If need be the transitional period may continue into the early twenties.

The Framework for Children and Young People's Continuing Care contains guidance on conducting an assessment of continuing care needs for those under the age of 18. It defines continuing care as

> "a continuing care package will be required when a child or young person has needs arising from disability, accident, or illness that cannot be met by existing universal or specialist services alone."

It also contains guidance on managing the transition from child to adult services, and makes clear that children's continuing care teams should identify those young people for whom it is likely that adult NHS continuing health care will be necessary and notify the relevant primary care trust (PCT) who will hold adult responsibility for them. Such young people should be identified when they reach the age of 14. This should be followed by a formal referral for screening at age 16 to the adult continuing health care team at the relevant PCT.

Hospitals: Food

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on NHS hospital food in each of the last three years *(a)* in total and *(b)* per patient per meal. [19774]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. However, data provided to the Department show the gross cost of patient food services and the average cost of feeding one patient per day. Information for the last three years is shown in the following table:

£

	Gross cost of patient food services	*Average cost of feeding one patient per day*
2007-08	311,401,537	6.97
2008-09	439,531,088	7.95
2009-10	474,658,506	8.06

For 2007-08 the data supply relating to patient food services was voluntary. From 2008-09, the data supply became mandatory for all national health service organisations with the exception of NHS foundation trusts. The information has been supplied by the NHS and has not been amended centrally. The accuracy and completeness of the information is the responsibility of the provider organisation.

Medical Treatments

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many stenting procedures in the *(a)* iliac arteries, *(b)* femoral arteries and *(c)* arteries below the knee have taken place in each NHS trust in the latest year for which figures are available; [19358]

(2) how many percutaenous transluminal angioplasty procedures of the *(a)* iliac arteries, *(b)* femoral arteries and *(c)* arteries below the knee have taken place in each NHS trust in the latest year for which figures are available; [19359]

(3) how many renal stenting procedures have taken place in each NHS trust in the latest year for which figures are available; [19360]

(4) how many carotid stenting procedures have taken place in each NHS trust in the latest year for which figures are available. [19361]

Mr Simon Burns: The data have been placed in the Library due to the length of the response. Reference should be made to the footnotes and clinical codes section when interpreting the data.

Monitor

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health, pursuant to the oral statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 505-6, on public bodies reform, what the functions of Monitor are; which additional functions it will assume when it becomes an economic regulator; and from which bodies these functions will be transferred. [19239]

Mr Simon Burns: Monitor's function as independent regulator of NHS foundation trusts (FTs) is set out in the National Health Service Act 2006. The Government have set out their proposal in the consultation document; "Liberating the NHS: Regulating Healthcare providers (July 2010)" which is to develop Monitor into an economic regulator for health and adult social care.

Subject to legislation, Monitor's role would change significantly and consequently, Monitor would not retain all of its existing powers as the regulator of FTs, but would extend its role in relation to providers more generally.

Monitor's overarching duty would be to protect the interests of patients and the public in the provision of health and adult social care services, by promoting competition where appropriate, and through regulation where necessary, including price regulation.

Monitor would be required to take a consistent approach to licensing and regulation of all providers.

NHS: Leasing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the amount spent by the NHS on renting equipment in each of the last three years. [19775]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested, for 2007-08 and 2008-09, is in the following table.

Amounts charged to expenditure in respect of the hire of plant and machinery

£000

	2008-09	*2007-08*
Primary care trusts	14,008	11,477
Strategic health authorities	593	486
National health service trusts	55,507	60,250

Source:
NHS (England) Summarised Account 2008-09 and 2007-08

Figures for plant and machinery were not disclosed separately in the 2009-10 NHS Summarised Accounts following the implementation of International Financial Reporting Standards.

Social Services: Learning Disability

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that the social care budget is adequate to meet the needs of adults with a learning disability; and if he will make a statement. [19309]

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the Learning Disabilities Development Fund after March 2011. [19284]

Paul Burstow: The Learning Disabilities Development Fund forms part of the personal social services grant, which is currently allocated from the Department to local authorities. The personal social services grant will increase by £1 billion in real terms by 2014-15. However, to reduce the administration burdens and increase flexibility for local authorities, after March 2011 this grant will be rolled into local government formula grant.

The coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with a realistic programme of efficiency, that there is sufficient funding available both to protect people's access to services, meet demographic pressures and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes. We expect that this will benefit all users of social care services, including people with learning disabilities.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Records Bureau

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the average time taken for a Criminal Records Bureau check was in *(a)* each of the last five years and *(b)* each of the last three months in 2009. [19115]

Lynne Featherstone: Please find following table detailing the average waiting time in days for both Standard and Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) Checks in the financial years 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 and for the months of October, November and December 2009.

Data are not held in relation to the financial years 2005-06 and 2006-07.

Days

Financial year/month	*Standard disclosures average turnaround*	*Enhanced disclosures average turnaround*
2007-08	6.3	20.5
2008-09	7.5	26.3
2009-10	6.1	24.1
October 2009	6.8	22.6
November 2009	8.2	22.7
December 2009	8.2	24.5

The length of time a CRB check can take to process can include "time out with customer". This occurs when the CRB has to contact the Registered Body for additional information about the applicant, when the application form has not been completed correctly or where the police require additional clarification about the applicant's identity. The CRB cannot continue to process the application until the Registered Body provides this information; or the applicant resolves any question of identity to the satisfaction of the police force.

There are a number of other factors that can affect the timely completion of CRB checks, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information; any ongoing or outstanding criminal investigations or proceedings; where more than one force holds relevant information and the operational effectiveness of the Disclosure Units of the police forces involved in the CRB checking process.

The CRB have been working with police forces through joint operational performance reviews, to address the problems associated with delays and the impact that exceptional demand for CRB checks can have on police forces. The CRB has set up improvement plans with those forces that have been having problems meeting the demand for certificates.

This is aimed at maintaining a steady output of applications on the system while also reducing the number of outstanding cases that have been with police forces for more than 25 days.

Freedom Bill

Charlie Elphicke: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for bringing forward her proposals for a Freedom Bill; and if she will make a statement. [19217]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: As announced in the Queen's speech, the Government will bring forward a Freedom Bill in the current parliamentary session.

Immigration: Detention Centres

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* children and *(b)* families have been held in (i) immigration detention, (ii) short-term holding units and (iii) mother-and-baby units in prisons in each month of 2010 to date. [19110]

Damian Green *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: Local management information shows children and families entering detention held solely under Immigration Act Powers (excluding Harwich), January to June 2010[1,2,3,4,5], as follows:

	UK Border Agency removal centres		*UK Border Agency short-term holding facilities*[6]		*HM Prison mother and baby units*	
2010	*Children*	*Families*	*Children*	*Families*	*Children*	*Families*
January	85	45	10	—	—	—
February	70	40	—	—	—	—
March	65	25	—	—	—	—
April	50	30	—	—	—	—
May	40	15	—	—	—	—
June	25	15	*	*	*	*

Notes:

1. These figures are based on management information and are not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. They are provisional and may be subject to change
2. Some detainees may be recorded more than once if, for example, the person has been detained on more than one separate occasion in the time period shown, such as a person who has left detention, but has subsequently been re-detained.
3. Figures rounded to the nearest five ('—' = 0, * = one or two)
4. Figures exclude persons recorded as entering Harwich short-term holding facility, police cells and those recorded as detained under both criminal and immigration powers and their dependants.
5. Figures will overstate if any applicants aged 18 or over claim to be younger.
6. Dover Harbour, Colnbrook Short Term, Pennine House

Information on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers Q3 2010 will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration: Quarterly

Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July to September 2010 on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

British Nationals Abroad: Prisoners

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs in respect of how many cases relating to *(a)* British prisoners and *(b)* political prisoners abroad his Department is involved. [18434]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Following are the latest detainee figures which show a snap shot of the British nationals in detention whom we have assisted, as of 31 March 2010. We do not hold a separate figure for political prisoners.

Half-yearly detainee figures: 31 March 2010

Country	*FCO post*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
Afghanistan	Kabul	6	0	6
Albania	Tirana	3	0	3
Algeria	Algiers	1	0	1
Angola	Luanda	0	0	0
Argentina	Buenos Aires	9	3	12
Armenia	Yerevan	0	0	0
Australia	Sydney	111	3	114
	Brisbane	59	3	62
	Canberra	0	0	0
	Perth	18	2	20
	Melbourne	84	7	91
Austria	Vienna	3	1	4
Azerbaijan	Baku	1	0	1
Bahrain	Bahrain	2	0	2
Bangladesh	Dhaka	0	0	0
Barbados	Bridgetown	6	7	13
	St Vincents and Grenadines	0	0	0
	St Kitts	1	0	1
	Antigue	5	0	5
	Grenada	1	5	6
	Dominica	1	0	1
Belarus	Minsk	0	0	0
Belgium	Brussels	12	0	12
Belize	Belmopan	0	0	0
Bolivia	La Paz	1	1	2
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Sarajevo	0	0	0
Botswana	Gaborone	0	0	0
Brazil	Brasilia	2	0	2
	Rio de Janeiro	8	4	12
	Sao Paulo	13	10	23
Brunei	Bandar Seri Begawan	0	0	0
Bulgaria	Sofia	1	0	1
Burma	Rangoon	0	0	0
Cambodia	Phnom Penh	8	0	8
Cameroon	Yaounde	0	0	0
Canada	Ottawa	1	0	1
	Montreal	3	0	3
	Toronto	17	1	18
	Vancouver	12	0	12
Chile	Santiago	1	0	1
China	Beijing	2	0	2
	Chongqing	0	0	0
	Shanghai	3	0	3
	Guangzhou	1	1	2
	Hong Kong	15	4	19
Colombia	Bogota	4	0	4
	Cali	0	0	0
	Cartagena	0	0	0
	Medellin	0	0	0
Congo (Democratic Rep)	Kinshasa	1	0	1
Costa Rica	San Jose	3	0	3
Croatia	Zagreb	1	0	1
Cuba	Havana	0	0	0
Cyprus	Nicosia	11	0	11
Czech Republic	Prague	1	0	1
Denmark	Copenhagen	3	0	3
Dominican Republic	Santo Domingo	12	2	14
Ecuador	Quito	8	2	10
Egypt	Alexandria	0	0	0
	Cairo	21	3	24
Eritrea	Asmara	0	0	0
Estonia	Tallinn	2	0	2
Ethiopia	Addis Ababa	3	3	6
Fiji	Suva	1	0	1
Finland	Helsinki	1	0	1
France	Bordeaux	19	0	19
	Lille	37	0	37
	Lyon	6	1	7
	Marseille	13	0	13
	Paris	55	2	57
Gambia	Banjul	1	1	2
Georgia	Tbilisi	0	0	0
Germany	Berlin	56	1	57
	Dusseldorf	46	6	52
	Munich	14	1	15
Ghana	Accra	5	0	5
Greece	Athens	13	2	15
	Corfu	0	0	0
	Heraklion	1	0	1
	Rhodes	0	0	0
	Thessaloniki	0	0	0
	Zakynthos	0	0	0
Guatemala	Guatemala City	2	0	2
Guyana	Georgetown	3	3	6
	Suriname	1	1	2
Hungary	Budapest	1	0	1
Iceland	Reykjavik	0	0	0
India	Chennai	0	0	0
	Kolkata	0	0	0

Half-yearly detainee figures: 31 March 2010

Country	*FCO post*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
	Mumbai	4	0	4
	New Delhi	8	0	8
	Goa	2	0	2
Indonesia	Jakarta	11	0	11
Iran	Tehran	1	1	2
Iraq	Baghdad	2	0	2
Ireland	Dublin	90	11	101
Israel	Tel Aviv	1	0	1
Italy	Florence	3	0	3
	Milan	9	2	11
	Naples	7	0	7
	Venice	3	0	3
	Rome	9	2	11
Jamaica	Kingston	41	24	65
Japan	Tokyo	16	3	19
	Osaka	10	0	10
Jerusalem	Jerusalem	0	0	0
Jordan	Amman	0	0	0
Kazakhstan	Almaty	0	0	0
Kenya	Nairobi	2	0	2
Korea (North)	Pyongyang	0	0	0
Korea (South)	Seoul	1	0	1
Kuwait	Kuwait City	8	3	11
Latvia	Riga	1	0	1
Lebanon	Beirut	0	1	1
Libya	Tripoli	0	0	0
Lithuania	Vilnius	0	0	0
Luxembourg	Luxembourg	3	0	3
Macedonia	Skopje	0	0	0
Malawi	Lilongwe	0	0	0
Malaysia	Kuala Lumpur	2	0	2
Malta	Valletta	8	1	9
Mauritius	Port Louis	0	0	0
Mexico	Mexico City	0	1	1
	Cancun	0	0	0
Moldova	Chisinau	0	0	0
Mongolia	Ulaanbaatar	1	0	1
Montenegro	Podgorica	1	0	1
Morocco	Rabat	3	0	3
	Marrakech	0	0	0
	Tangier	6	2	8
Mozambique	Maputo	0	0	0
Namibia	Windhoek	1	0	1
Nepal	Kathmandu	1	0	1
Netherlands	Amsterdam	32	1	33
New Zealand	Wellington	7	0	7
Nigeria	Lagos	0	0	0
Norway	Oslo	30	4	34
Oman	Muscat	5	0	5
Pakistan	Islamabad	25	0	25
	Karachi	2	0	2
Panama	Panama City	8	2	10
Papua New Guinea	Port Moresby	0	1	1
Peru	Lima	31	3	34
Philippines	Manila	19	0	19
Poland	Warsaw	3	0	3
Portugal	Lisbon	13	1	14
	Oporto	1	2	3
	Funchal	6	0	6
	Portimao	2	0	2
Qatar	Doha	4	0	4
Romania	Bucharest	4	0	4
Russia	Moscow	0	0	0
	St Petersburg	0	0	0
	Ekaterinburg	0	0	0
Rwanda	Kigali	0	0	0
St Lucia	Castries	4	0	4
Saudi Arabia	Riyadh	3	0	3
Senegal	Dakar	3	0	3
Serbia	Belgrade	3	0	3
	Pristina	0	0	0
Seychelles	Victoria	0	0	0
Sierra Leone	Freetown	1	0	1
Singapore	Singapore	4	0	4
Slovakia	Bratislava	1	0	1
Slovenia	Ljubljana	2	0	2
Solomon Islands	Honiara	0	0	0
South Africa	Cape Town	6	1	7
	Pretoria	6	2	8
Spain	Alicante	36	2	38
	Barcelona	22	2	24
	Ibiza	9	0	9
	Las Palmas	13	0	13
	Madrid	70	8	78
	Malaga	144	5	149
	Palma	18	0	18
	Tenerife	16	1	17
Sri Lanka	Colombo	4	0	4
Sudan	Khartoum	0	0	0
Sweden	Stockholm	22	2	24
Switzerland	Berne	6	0	6
	Geneva	3	0	3
Syria	Damascus	5	1	6
Taiwan	Taipei	18	0	18
Tajikistan	Dushanbe	0	0	0
Tanzania	Dar es Salaam	1	0	1
Thailand	Bangkok	87	1	88
	Chiang Mai	2	0	2
	Laos	1	0	1
Trinidad and Tobago	Port of Spain	7	7	14
Tunisia	Tunis	2	1	3
Turkey	Ankara	3	0	3
	Bodrum	3	3	6
	Istanbul	4	5	9
	Izmir	1	0	1
	Antalya	3	0	3
	Marmaris	2	0	2
	Fethiye	0	0	0
Turkmenistan	Ashgabat	0	0	0
Uganda	Kampala	0	0	0
Ukraine	Kiev	0	0	0
United Arab Emirates	Abu Dhabi	18	1	19

Half-yearly detainee figures: 31 March 2010

Country	*FCO post*	*Male*	*Female*	*Total*
	Dubai	33	3	36
USA	Atlanta	61	7	68
	Boston	31	2	33
	Chicago	32	4	36
	Houston	84	4	88
	Los Angeles	95	6	101
	New York	87	8	95
	Orlando	89	18	107
	San Francisco	79	8	87
	Washington	32	5	37
Uruguay	Montevideo	0	0	0
Uzbekistan	Tashkent	1	0	1
Venezuela	Caracas	11	3	14
Vietnam	Hanoi	1	1	2
Yemen	Sanaa	1	0	1
Zambia	Lusaka	0	0	0
Zimbabwe	Harare	0	0	0
Total	219	2,393	256	2,649

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department spent in respect of the cases of British prisoners held in prison in each country in the latest year for which figures are available. [18435]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Figures for the amount of money spent on British prisoners held overseas are not centrally recorded.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office provide assistance to all British nationals detained overseas. This assistance includes: contacting the prisoner within 24 hours of being informed of their detention and visiting them (if they so request) as soon as possible afterwards; keeping in contact with a prisoner's family or friends; taking an interest in the prisoner's welfare; and offering information about the local prison system to the prisoner and their family.

The Foreign and Commonwealth Office work closely with the non-governmental organisation Prisoners Abroad. It supports the welfare of British citizens in detention overseas.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18769]

Alistair Burt: Records are only available in the form requested for UK based Foreign and Commonwealth officials. Records for overseas-based officials are not held in the form requested and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

The number of officials who have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action in each year since 1997 are:

	Number of officials
1997	37
1998	28
1999	20
2000	8
2001	15
2002	7
2003	27
2004	5
2005	16
2006	25
2007	18
2008	31
2009	33
2010	27

The details requested at *(b)* and *(c)* are not held centrally or available in the form requested and would be available only at a disproportionate cost.

As there are fewer than five dismissals for matters relating to *(d)* (i) disciplinary record in each year since 1997, details are withheld on the grounds of confidentiality.

Central records for matters relating to *(d)* (ii) have only been maintained since 2006. As there are fewer than five dismissals in each year since records have been maintained, details are withheld on the grounds of confidentiality.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what assessment his Department has made of the implications of the provisions of *(a)* the Treaty of Sèvres and *(b)* Article 80 of the UN Charter for negotiations on the Middle East Peace process. [17617]

Alistair Burt: The best way to achieve the goal of a sustainable two-state solution is through a negotiated settlement. We do not believe that the treaty of Sèvres or article 80 of the United Nations charter are relevant to this process.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Affordable Housing: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of affordable homes which will be built in Warrington in the next four years as a result of the proposals announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [19899]

Grant Shapps: The Department does not forecast levels of future house building and delivery will be determined by local housing plans. We announced in the spending review almost £4.5 billion investment for new affordable housing, which through a new delivery model is expected to deliver up to 155,000 new affordable homes over this spending period.

Child Benefit: Overseas Residence

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to the public purse of payments of child benefit to children resident in *(a)* other EU member states and *(b)* countries outside the EU. [19025]

Mr Gauke: I have been asked to reply.

Information about the payment of child benefit for children resident outside the UK is available only at disproportionate cost. Entitlement to child benefit is generally reliant on the child in question being present in the UK. There are limited exceptions set out in UK and European Community (EC) law, for example when the child is receiving medical treatment anywhere abroad for an illness or disability which began before that child left the UK or when the person claiming child benefit is working in the UK and paying compulsory UK national insurance contributions and their family is living in another member state of the European economic area (EEA).

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions by his Department; and what assessment he has made of the effects on the prospects for small businesses of winning contracts of such statements. [19019]

Robert Neill: Although quality management statements are considered during the evaluation of tenders no overall assessment has been made of their effectiveness on contract award.

Although 16% of the DCLG's spend last year was with small and medium-sized enterprises, the Department recognises that it can be difficult for these enterprises to win central Government contracts for a variety of reasons. It is, therefore, taking steps to ensure that small and medium-sized enterprises can be used as second-tier suppliers. In particular we will be incorporating the best practice in the Office of Government Commerce guidance into our processes and systems.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what estimate he has made of the per capita level of his Department's Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit allocated in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [19836]

(2) how much and what proportion of his Department's Capital Departmental Expenditure Limit will be allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [19841]

(3) what estimate he has made of his Department's capital Departmental Expenditure Limit per head in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [19886]

Robert Neill: The data requested for the spending review 2010 are not yet available. The Department is at present working through its settlement in order to allocate the resources available. This process will be completed in due course. We expect to complete this exercise well in advance of the start of the next financial year (1 April 2011).

After the Department has allocated the spending review settlement, these data will be used to complete the Country and Regional Analysis:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/pespub_pesa10.htm#cra

in the 2012 exercise. It should be noted that these allocations comprise planned expenditure only, and are therefore subject to change. Due to the statistical nature of the analysis, the subsequent analysis is open to interpretation and is not designated as "National Statistics".

Departmental Manpower

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department has spent on *(a)* consultants, *(b)* agency staff and *(c)* fixed-term contractors in the last five months; and whether he has made an estimate of his Department's expenditure on such personnel in (i) the remainder of 2010-11 and (ii) each of the subsequent four financial years. [18549]

Robert Neill: Under the initiative to open up Government spending over £500, details of the Department's expenditure, including consultants and agency staff (fixed-term contractors will appear under agency staff), have already been published for the first quarter of 2010-11 and can be found here:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/spendingdata1011

Figures for the next quarter will be published at the end of October.

Forecast spend for the remaining six months of 2010-11 is £0.7 million for contract and agency staff and £6.7 million for consultancies. However, we have introduced stringent controls which are likely to reduce expenditure in these areas.

There is a moratorium in place on consultancy expenditure over £20,000, exemptions to which can only be authorised by the Permanent Secretary. There is also a vacancy freeze which prohibits the recruitment of interim or agency staff unless authorised by the Secretary of State.

No estimates have been made for the subsequent four years.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18741]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government was formed in May 2006 and the following tables detail the total and consecutive days lost to staff sickness in the main Department in each financial year since that date up to and including 30 September 2010.

Total days sickness absence

Number

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010 to 30 September*
Less than 5	2,447	2,230	2,167	2,195	2,218
5 to less than 10	273	292	272	271	126
10 to less than 15	93	116	109	114	43
15 to less than 20	49	66	54	51	23
20 to less than 25	33	32	30	19	0
25 to less than 50	80	62	56	44	49
50 to less than 75	13	34	29	30	12
75 to less than 100	14	9	7	10	7
100 to less than 150	15	19	14	12	6
150 to less than 200	5	1	3	3	2
More than 200	0	4	3	2	0

Consecutive days sickness absence

Number

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010 to 30 September*
Less than 5	1,101	1,212	1,115	1,103	728
5 to less than 10	206	205	210	203	92
10 to less than 15	73	84	74	73	37
15 to less than 20	42	39	30	20	18
20 to less than 25	27	22	25	17	16
25 to less than 50	49	45	41	38	24
50 to less than 75	13	22	11	16	14
75 to less than 100	7	10	9	7	4
100 to less than 150	11	13	5	6	4
150 to less than 200	2	0	3	4	2
More than 200	0	4	3	1	0
More than 3 months	22	33	22	21	17
More than 6 months	5	6	7	5	3
More than 1 year	0	3	2	0	0

Housing: East of England

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the average density of new housing in *(a)* St Albans and *(b)* the East of England in each of the last 10 years. [19667]

Andrew Stunell: The density of new housing in St Albans for 1994-97, 1998-2001, 2002-05 and 2006-09 is published in the Land Use Change Statistics Live Table P232, while the density of new housing in the East of England between 1999 and 2009 is published in the Land Use Change Statistics Live Table P231. Both of these tables can be accessed at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/planningandbuilding/planningbuilding/planningstatistics/livetables/landusechange/

Note that the density of new housing at local authority level is only published as multi-year averages as it can be highly volatile at more frequent intervals.

The abolition of Whitehall density targets by the new Government means that the appropriate level of density of new housing is now a matter for local determination.

Local Government

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the responses he has received from local authority chief executives and leaders to his letter requesting their views on reducing the burden of local government. [19112]

Robert Neill: We are unable to deposit the individual responses within the Library without incurring disproportionate cost. We will, however, provide copies of individual responses on request, in accordance with confidentiality, data protection and freedom of information requirements.

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to devolve more powers to local authorities. [19300]

Greg Clark: I have been tasked by the Prime Minister to take forward the coalition's commitment to decentralise power away from Whitehall and towards local government, communities and individuals. Measures have already been announced including the removal of central burdens such as the comprehensive area assessment, the removal of centrally prescribed indicators and targets, and the abolition of the Standards Board.

In order to free up local areas, funding to local authorities and delivery bodies will be radically simplified, giving them greater choice over how to use their money to meet the needs of local people. The forthcoming Localism Bill will introduce measures which empower local government, such as the general power of competence. I will be reporting to the Prime Minister in summer 2011 with an update on the progress the Government have made to push power down to the lowest possible level.

Planning: Sustainable Development

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government which body will be responsible for providing advice on sustainability to his Department's new office for major planning decisions following the abolition of the Sustainable Development Commission. [19708]

Robert Neill: Both the town and country planning regime and the planning regime for major infrastructure provide for the integration of economic, social and environmental aspects of sustainable development into decisions on applications, and for consultation with a wide range of relevant organisations, including, for example, the Environment Agency, Natural England and relevant health authorities.

Social Rented Housing

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing is *(a)* social housing and *(b)* private sector (i) owner-occupied and (ii) rented housing. [17802]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows the proportion of social and private sector housing as at 1 April 2009 in England and is derived from live table 100 published at the Communities and Local Government website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table100.xls

Thousand

	Social housing								
	Local authority		*Registered social landlords*		*Other public sector*		*Private sector*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
England	1,820	8	2,195	10	74	—	18,476	82	22,564

Sources:

Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to the Tenant Services Authority (TSA) by registered social landlords.

Estimates on an equivalent basis are not available for the private rented and owner-occupied sectors.

However, estimates of the proportion of the private rented and owner-occupied sectors are available in the Survey of English Housing (SEH). These figures are however not comparable to the figures shown in the answer, because the SEH is based on survey data and the figures in the answer to the PQ on administrative data.

The web link to the latest published SHE data is:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/statistics/pdf/1479789.pdf

Social Rented Housing: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing in Carlisle constituency is *(a)* social housing and *(b)* private sector (i) owner-occupied and (ii) rented housing. [17799]

Andrew Stunell: Statistics on dwelling stock are not collected at constituency level. Local authority level figures are published in Housing Statistics live table 100 at the Communities and Local Government website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table100.xls

The figures show stock by private, registered social landlords and local authority. Estimates are not available for the private rented and owner-occupied sectors.

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing in Cumbria is *(a)* social housing and *(b)* private sector (i) owner-occupied and (ii) rented housing. [17801]

Andrew Stunell: The following table shows for Cumbria the number and the proportion of dwellings by tenure at 1 April. The table is derived from live table 100 published at the Communities and Local Government website.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/table100.xls

Number

	Social housing								
	Local authority		*Registered social landlords*		*Other public sector*		*Private sector*		
	Number	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Total*
Cumbria	5,940	3	26,560	11	210	—	201,550	86	234,260

Sources:

Housing Flows Reconciliation and joint returns by local authorities; Housing Strategy Statistical Appendix (HSSA) submitted to Communities and Local Government by local authorities; Regulatory Statistical Return (RSR) as reported to Tenant Services Authority (TSA) by registered social landlords.

Estimates are not available for the private rented and owner-occupied sectors.

TRANSPORT

Airlines

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will take steps to ensure that air fares advertised by low-cost airlines accurately reflect the cost to the consumer of flying. [19506]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* Airlines are required by European rules on air fare transparency to indicate at all times the final price to be paid, including all applicable taxes, charges, surcharges and fees which are unavoidable and foreseeable at the time of publication. Any optional price supplements should be clearly communicated at the start of the booking process. We expect to introduce an enforcement regime for these requirements early in 2011, including penalties for non-compliance.

Bicycles: Trains

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 408W, on bicycles, what mechanisms there are in place to encourage the use of folding bicycles; if he will use the same mechanisms to encourage the provision of additional capacity to allow more space for bikes to be carried on trains; and whether the remit of the Station Travel Plan pilot project covers the issue of provision for bicycles on trains. [18620]

Mrs Villiers: The 2007 Rail White Paper provided that future franchises would require the carriage of folding bikes at all times and non-folding bikes at the discretion of the relevant train operator. Decisions on how much capacity to provide on trains for storage of bicycles is a commercial one for individual train operators. The Department is currently monitoring the Station Travel Plan pilots being run by the rail industry which include a focus on improving the integration between rail and other transport modes including cycling. However, the specific question of provision of cycle space on trains is outside the pilot's remit.

Bus Services: Concessions

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for future funding of concessionary bus passes for older people; and what assessment he has made of the likely effect of his policy in this respect on rural communities. [17201]

Norman Baker: Currently, the bulk of concessionary travel funding is provided through formula grant by Communities and Local Government, with the remainder provided through special grant from the Department for Transport. Special grant funding provided by DFT was only intended to cover the period from 2008-09 through to 2010-11. From April 2011 this funding will be subsumed into formula grant alongside the rest of the funding for concessionary travel.

Communities and Local Government held a consultation, which closed on 6 October, on the distribution of formula grant to local authorities in England from 2010-11. The consultation process provided an opportunity for local authorities to influence decisions on the final distribution method. Consultation responses submitted by rural communities will be considered by Communities and Local Government in arriving at a final distribution method.

Departmental Carbon Emissions

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the change in the level of carbon dioxide emissions from his Department since May 2010; and what steps he plans to take to meet his Department's target of reducing such emissions by 10 per cent. by May 2011. [16817]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is committed to achieving the 10% carbon reduction target announced by the Prime Minister on 14 May this year, and I have had discussions with relevant officials to progress this.

The Department has developed and published, through the Efficiency and Reform Group's Centre of Expertise in Sustainable Procurement, a plan that aims to deliver the savings required by the target. The latest data on performance, to the end of August, are publicly available on the data.gov.uk website at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

Performance data are reported monthly, within four weeks of the month end. The next data release (to the end of September 2010) will be available by the end of October 2010, and similarly published on the data.gov.uk website.

Details on the reduction projects the Department for Transport is implementing or considering for implementation is available on the data.gov.uk website at:

http://data.gov.uk/departmental-performance-co2-emissions-reduction-date

This work programme will lead to reductions in our emissions from electricity, gas and fuel oil used on our office estate over the target period.

First Capital Connect

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent estimate he has made of the level of *(a)* punctuality and *(b)* overcrowding in respect of rail services on the First Capital Connect line between St Albans and London; and if he will make a statement. [19684]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given on 14 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 722W, in response to a similar question concerning punctuality and reliability and passengers in excess numbers for rail services on the St Albans to London route.

The following table confirms Public Performance Measure details since the answer given on 14 July this year.

	PPM	*PPM MAA*
27 June to 24 July 2010	89.5	89.2
25 July to 21 August 2010	93.4	89.3
22 August to 18 September 2010	91.9	89.2

PPM = Public Performance Measure. MAA = Moving Annual Average.

Large Goods Vehicles: Excise Duties

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects to introduce a new system of HGV road user charges. [19968]

Mike Penning: The Government are committed to introducing a new system of HGV road user charging in the current Parliament.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Surveillance

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much the Maritime and Coastguard Agency has spent on surveillance flights to monitor pollution from shipping in the UK Counter Pollution Zone in the last 12 months. [19680]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* The Maritime and Coastguard Agency spent £1,618,531 on surveillance flights in the period October 2009 to September 2010.

Winter Resilience Review

Nigel Adams: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to implement the recommendations of the July 2010 interim report of the Winter Resilience Review; and what plans he has to publish a guide on rights and liabilities in respect of the clearing of snow and ice. [18019]

Norman Baker: The Winter Resilience Review's interim report concentrated on actions that can be taken by local and national highways authorities, salt suppliers, the Government and others to improve resilience for the coming winter, as well as some longer term actions. The findings were welcomed by the Government and the Secretary of State for Transport instructed his officials to take forward recommendations directed at the Department for Transport and the Highways Agency. This included sourcing 250,000 tonnes of imported salt to establish and manage national strategic stockpiles, reflecting the exceptional re-stocking challenges for local highway authorities for this coming winter.

Among its recommendations, the review panel recommended that this Department produce guidance for members of the public on clearing the footways outside their property. The Department in consultation with other interested Government Departments has published this guidance on the Directgov website at:

www.direct.gov.uk

JUSTICE

Coroners

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 36WS, on updating the coroner system, whether the improved training for coroners and their staff will be affected by the reductions in his Department's budget announced in the Spending Review 2010. [19893]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice is developing firm plans to deliver priorities within the spending review settlement. Although no internal budgets have been set, I am committed to maintaining effective training for all who work within the coronial system, where financially possible.

As part of our work to improve the coronial system, we will review the current training and determine how the existing budget may be better deployed for the benefit of all who work within the system.

Drugs

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will estimate the savings to the criminal justice system of the decriminalisation of drugs. [19411]

Mr Blunt: Neither the MoJ nor the Home Office have carried out a systematic analysis of the financial impact on the criminal justice system of decriminalisation of illegal drugs. Such an analysis would be highly complicated to carry out, require considerable resources, and would not be justified against the background of the Government's clear position that decriminalisation of drugs would not be in the broader interests of the community or discourage the use of drugs.

Employment Tribunals Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases relating to each type of claim have been heard at employment tribunals in each of the last three years; and in how many such cases the tribunal ruled in favour of the claimant in each such year. [19303]

Mr Djanogly: The following tables list the number of claims heard by employment tribunals, broken down by type of claim (or 'jurisdiction') throughout Great Britain for the period 2007-10. They also show the number of those cases in which the claimant (rather than the respondent/employer) was successful.

The first table excludes data in respect of default judgments (i.e. cases in which the claimant is awarded judgment on the basis that no, or no acceptable response has been received to the claim; or where the respondent states that it does not wish to resist the claim). The second table includes data in respect of default judgments.

Table 1: Number of hearings at employment tribunals and number of successful claims 2006-07 to 2009-10

	Number of cases heard at tribunal[1]			*Claimant success at hearing*[2]		
All jurisdiction cases	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Unfair dismissal	8,300	9,300	10,900	3,800	3,900	5,200
Wages Act	5,900	7,400	7,800	3,900	4,600	5,000
Breach of contract	6,100	7,700	8,600	3,900	4,600	5,800
Redundancy pay	2,000	2,600	3,800	1,600	2,100	3,000
Sex discrimination	1,300	1,100	1,100	470	340	340
Race discrimination	840	1,100	1,100	120	130	130
Disability discrimination	810	890	870	180	180	170
Religious belief discrimination	140	170	170	14	19	19
Sexual orientation discrimination	98	120	100	29	13	27
Age discrimination	290	430	540	56	53	95
Working time	3,500	4,100	5,100	2,500	2,900	3,600
Equal pay	870	180	380	680	36	200
National minimum wage	88	85	110	55	52	49
Others	4,900	5,400	6,900	3,300	3,700	4,900
All	35,200	40,600	47,400	20,600	22,700	28,500

[1] This excludes cases that were withdrawn, conciliated by ACAS, struck out without a hearing and default judgments.

[2] Successful at hearing excludes default judgments.

Source:

ET Annual Reports 2006-07 to 2009-10

Table 2: Number of hearings at employment tribunals and successful claims 2006-07 to 2009-10 including default judgments

	Number of cases heard at tribunal (including default judgments)[3]			*Successful at hearing (including default judgments)*		
All jurisdiction cases	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Unfair dismissal	8,900	10,000	12,400	4,400	4,600	6,600
Wages Act	7,600	9,600	11,600	5,700	6,800	8,800
Breach of contract	7,500	9,500	12,300	5,200	6,400	9,400
Redundancy pay	2,800	3,700	6,400	2,400	3,200	5,500
Sex discrimination	1,300	1,200	1,200	510	380	450
Race discrimination	850	1,100	1,100	140	140	190
Disability discrimination	820	920	930	190	200	230
Religious belief discrimination	140	180	180	14	24	28
Sexual orientation discrimination	100	130	110	31	15	37
Age discrimination	300	450	570	65	71	130
Working time	4,500	5,400	8,000	3,500	4,200	6,500
Equal pay	870	180	390	680	38	210
National minimum wage	130	96	130	97	63	75
Others	5,300	5,800	8,000	3,700	4,200	6,000
All	41,200	48,300	63,400	26,500	30,200	44,100

[3] Excludes cases that were withdrawn, conciliated by ACAS and struck out without a hearing.

Source:

ET Annual Reports 2006-07 to 2009-10

Magistrates Courts

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the rate of utilisation was of each magistrates court in the latest period for which figures are available. [19491]

Mr Djanogly: The information requested on utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for the period April to June 2010 is within the following table:

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
Aberdare	44.3
Abertillery	47.4
Aberystwyth	55.5
Aldershot	69.5
Alnwick	56.6
Alton	63.8
Ammanford	61.6
Andover	21.4
Ashford	62.5
Aylesbury	88.4
Banbury	77.2
Barking (East Street)	69.1
Barnsley	61.7
Barnstaple	72.4
Barrow in Furness	64.9
Barry	54.1
Basildon	67.6
Basingstoke	82.8
Bath	70.6
Bedford	67.0
Berwick upon Tweed	57.7
Beverley	44.8
Bexley	78.2
Bicester	59.9
Bingley	66.3
Birkenhead	60.6
Birmingham (Corporation Street)	62.4
Bishop Auckland	33.2
Blackburn	71.8
Blackpool	88.6
Blackwood Family Court	17.5
Blaydon	39.8
Bodmin	73.8
Bolton	62.8
Bootle	81.7
Boston	42.9
Bournemouth	72.5
Bracknell	59.0
Bradford	52.7
Brecon	29.7
Brent	51.8
Brentford	19.9
Bridgend	55.8
Bridgwater	51.2
Bridlington	43.5
Brighton	75.7
Bristol	86.0
Bromley (London Road)	71.7
Burnley	77.8
Burton upon Trent	50.5
Bury	61.4
Bury St Edmunds	62.8
Buxton	59.0
Caernarfon	73.0
Caerphilly	82.6
Calderdale	57.8
Camberwell Green	93.3
Camborne (Bassett Road)	26.7
Cambridge	39.3
Cannock	69.0
Canterbury	62.6
Cardiff	49.4
Cardigan	24.5
Carlisle	61.2
Carmarthen	30.0
Chelmsford	59.7
Cheltenham (St George's Road)	49.5
Chester	56.9
Chesterfield (Tapton Lane)	65.9
Chichester	62.0
Chippenham	52.7
Chorley	78.2

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
City of London	90.3
City of Westminster	117.2
Coalville	28.9
Colchester (Town Hall)	58.7
Consett	70.8
Corby	51.4
Coventry	69.1
Crawley	90.9
Crewe	58.6
Cromer	22.0
Croydon	63.8
Cwmbran	70.9
Darlington	54.3
Dartford	80.0
Daventry	45.6
Denbigh	14.0
Derby (St Mary's Gate)	67.7
Dewsbury	53.6
Didcot	50.5
Dolgellau	39.0
Doncaster	64.0
Dover	49.0
Dudley	65.8
Durham	53.5
Ealing	78.8
Eastbourne	65.3
Ely	21.6
Enfield	75.2
Epping	30.1
Exeter	70.8
Fareham	77.2
Feltham	79.5
Fenland	32.6
Fleetwood	64.1
Flint	27.4
Folkestone	77.1
Gateshead	82.2
Gloucester (Barbican Way)	35.2
Goole	33.0
Gosforth	33.1
Grantham	33.0
Grays	66.0
Great Yarmouth	40.5
Greenwich	88.5
Grimsby	71.0
Guildford	58.4
Halesowen	8.7
Harlow	77.1
Harrogate	49.1
Harrow	95.0
Hartlepool	71.0
Harwich	36.5
Hastings	80.1
Haverfordwest	53.4
Havering	76.7
Haywards Heath	52.4
Hemel Hempstead	53.6
Hendon	81.9
Hereford	67.4
Hertford	62.8

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
Highbury Corner	86.3
Highgate	57.3
Hinckley	48.4
Holyhead	34.4
Honiton	15.2
Horsham	33.6
Huddersfield	46.4
Hull and Holderness	61.8
Huntingdon	42.9
Hyndburn	71.9
ILCFPC	95.1
Ilkeston	8.6
Ipswich	57.0
Kendal	31.6
Kettering	72.5
Kidderminster	55.4
King's Lynn	69.6
Kingston upon Thames	60.8
Knowsley	55.6
Lancaster	55.0
Langbaurgh East	52.0
Leeds	64.6
Leicester	79.4
Lewes	38.6
Leyland	64.1
Lincoln	53.7
Liskeard	16.6
Liverpool (Dale Street)	48.1
Llandrindod Wells (Brecon)	63.2
Llandrindod Wells (Welshpool)	10.2
Llandudno	71.8
Llanelli	54.7
Llangefni	12.9
Loughborough	55.6
Lowestoft	44.4
Ludlow	59.5
Luton	68.7
Lyndhurst	56.6
Macclesfield (Hibel Road)	72.4
Maidenhead	60.2
Maidstone	86.7
Manchester City	74.1
Mansfield (Rosemary Street)	52.3
Market Drayton	19.0
Market Harborough	29.0
Medway (Chatham)	64.6
Melton Mowbray	32.9
Merthyr Tydfil	49.5
Milton Keynes	65.1
Mold	67.7
Neath and Port Talbot	43.5
Newark	59.8
Newbury	66.9
Newcastle under Lyme	73.6
Newcastle Upon Tyne	84.4
Newport	63.4
Newport (Civic Centre)	87.4
Newport (Clarence House)	57.8
Newton Abbot	51.7
Newton Aycliffe	73.4

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
North Liverpool Community Justice Centre	74.5
North London Family Proceedings Court	79.8
North Tyneside	71.9
Northallerton	80.3
Northampton	81.7
Northwich	75.3
Norwich	65.1
Nottingham (Carrington Street)	57.7
Nuneaton	84.9
Oldham	62.7
Ormskirk	52.1
Oswestry	28.0
Oxford	68.9
Penrith	37.5
Penzance	9.6
Peterborough	44.0
Peterlee	76.9
Plymouth	60.2
Pontefract	71.4
Pontypridd	47.0
Poole	55.3
Portsmouth	75.0
Prestatyn	58.7
Preston	86.9
Pwllheli	25.7
Reading	91.1
Redbridge	84.0
Redditch	62.1
Redhill	74.0
Reedley	41.9
Retford	26.0
Richmond upon Thames	82.1
Rochdale	70.5
Rossendale	22.2
Rotherham	58.6
Rugby	58.4
Runcorn	54.8
Salford	44.3
Salisbury (Guildhall)	60.8
Scarborough	62.1
Scunthorpe	81.7
Selby	53.4
Sevenoaks	78.9
Sheffield	65.0
Shrewsbury	60.7
Sittingbourne	61.3
Skegness	42.4
Skipton	48.4
Slough	101.2
Solihull	67.4
South East Northumberland	70.3
South Tyneside Law Courts	66.4
South Western	84.3
Southampton (The Avenue)	60.0
Southend on Sea	49.3
Southport	61.8
Spalding	41.9
St Albans	75.2
St Helens	58.7
Stafford	46.3
Staines	72.8
Stevenage	66.9
Stockport	45.2
Stoke on Trent	80.2
Stratford	69.7
Stratford upon Avon	83.9
Stroud	42.7
Sudbury	22.9
Sunderland and Houghton-le-Spring	64.6
Sutton	40.5
Sutton Coldfield	65.1
Swaffham	22.7
Swansea	71.3
Swindon	64.4
Tameside	74.6
Tamworth	66.5
Taunton	56.8
Teesside	77.6
Telford	62.6
Thames	90.7
Thanet (Margate)	91.3
Thetford	31.1
Torquay	87.4
Torquay County Court	14.9
Towcester	36.9
Trafford	85.5
Truro	60.9
Tynedale	84.1
Uxbridge	83.3
Wakefield	61.6
Walsall	82.0
Waltham Forest	71.4
Warley	74.2
Warrington (Arpley Street)	79.2
Watford	63.6
Wellingborough	64.6
Welshpool	43.5
West Bromwich	43.9
West London	95.7
Weston Super Mare	64.1
Weymouth	19.9
Whitehaven	48.0
Wigan	72.8
Wimbledon	85.3
Wimborne	5.0
Witham	46.0
Witney	30.6
Woking	65.7
Wolverhampton	54.4
Worcester	79.1
Workington	72.9
Worksop	47.6
Worthing	64.6
Wrexham	69.6
Wycombe	80.9
Yate	59.2
Yeovil	28.8

Utilisation rates of each magistrates court in England and Wales for periods April to June 2010

Courthouse	*Courtroom utilisation (percentage)*
York	67.3
England and Wales	62.7

Notes:

1. The data source is HMCS Performance Database (OPT).
2. This data was subject to the minimum data quality checks.
3. Courtroom Utilisation is the total number of hours used for judicial business in all courtrooms, divided by the total number of court hours available to be used.

Magistrates Courts: Trials

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many trials had been commenced and not completed in magistrates courts on the most recent date for which figures are available. [19490]

Mr Djanogly: In the second quarter (April to June) of 2010, there were 7,736 trials in the magistrates courts of England and Wales which were recorded as 'ineffective', meaning that they did not go ahead on the scheduled day, due to action or inaction by one or more of the prosecution, the defence or the court. This represented 18% of all trials taking place in the magistrates courts during this period. These trials will have been relisted for completion at a later date.

Statistics on trials in the magistrates courts are published by the Ministry of Justice in the statistical bulletin "Court Statistics Quarterly" which is available on the Ministry's website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/courtstatisticsquarterly.htm

Statistics for the third quarter (July to September) are due to be published in December 2010.

Office of the Public Guardian

Robert Flello: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many recorded incidents of the Office of the Public Guardian having lost original documents there were in the last 12 months. [19900]

Mr Djanogly: The Office of the Public Guardian is not able to collate statistics in respect of numbers of lost original documents without reference to individual cases.

Prison Service

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many reports the Prison Service has received of inappropriate relationships between prison inmates and prison staff in each of the last three years. [19478]

Mr Blunt: Allegations of inappropriate relationships, as with other information relating to prison security, are reported using a Security Information Report (SIR). All SIRs have to be evaluated for quality, accuracy and intelligence value. Reporting levels can be driven by interpretation and subjective perceptions of particular circumstances and individuals, malicious reporting and the possibility of duplication. The number of SIRs submitted, therefore, does not provide a true reflection of risk. As with other concerns relating to potential corrupt activities, SIRs relating to potential inappropriate relationships are forwarded to the NOMS Corruption Prevention Unit for further development, analysis and potentially tasking activity.

NOMS will always seek to deal robustly with any member of staff engaging in an inappropriate relationship with a prisoner and will look to use internal disciplinary and/or criminal proceedings depending on the circumstances of the case. Data collected from each prison shows that 258 individuals (directly and non-directly employed) have been convicted, dismissed or excluded by NOMS since January 2008 for corruption-related offences. 126 of these individuals are recorded under the category of 'Inappropriate Relationship' (five convicted, 85 excluded and 36 dismissed).

Note:

These figures have been drawn from live administrative data systems maintained by the Corruption Prevention Unit which may be amended at any time. Although care is taken when processing and analysing the returns, the detail collected is subject to the inaccuracies inherent in any large scale recording system. The 'results' data do not take account of those cases where there is an ongoing suspension, arrest or prosecution, or where there has been a resignation due to a corruption-related reason, prior to a formal disciplinary or criminal outcome.

Prison Service: Personnel

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice on what occasions he has met representatives of the trade union representing Prison Service staff since his appointment. [19311]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I met the chair of the Prison Officers Association formally in my Department and informally on other occasions. I met the president of the Prison Governor's Association briefly when I spoke at the recent conference of the association.

Probation Officers: Administration

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate his Department has made of the proportion of the working day which probation officers spend *(a)* with offenders and *(b)* on computer-based administrative tasks. [19488]

Mr Blunt: Delivery structures across probation areas vary as do the requirements of specific roles and the National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does not routinely report on the proportion of working time spent in face to face contact with offenders. In December 2008, NOMS undertook a snapshot survey over a one week period, based on a small sample of probation officer (PO) and probation service officer (PSO) staff. It reported that across England and Wales 24% of PO/PSO time was spent in direct contact with offenders, 41% was involved in computer activity and 35% of time was spent on non-computer—dealing with correspondence, meetings, travel, etc.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) is taking a number of actions to increase the amount of contact time between probation staff and offenders. These include:

Initiating the Offender Engagement Programme to evaluate and improve the quality of face to face work with offenders and its impact on reoffending. This includes work to reduce the bureaucratic demands on operational staff to enable them to:

spend a greater proportion of work time in one to one engagement, exercise their professional judgment in personalising the work and engaging with offenders.

As part of this programme the current heavily prescriptive, process-focused national standards are being revised, switching the focus from practitioners to what offenders do and achieve during the course of their supervision period.

The Specifications Benchmarking and Costing programme which is on track to publish specifications for approximately 75 services delivered to offenders, defendants, victims and courts. This work is supporting decentralisation by removing unnecessary prescription—specifying "what" must be delivered but not "how" it should be delivered by clearly stating the outcomes required from the services provided by probation. It supports innovation and localism—by offering clear choices to commissioners on the core services to deliver, to which types of offenders and with the flexibility to commission options to reflect local circumstances; and it is driving improvements in efficiency and effectiveness, allocating resources to the assessment and management of offenders according to the level of risk;

As part of the Probation Trusts Programme all areas (including locally initiated mergers) have identified efficiencies through for example the reduction in management overheads, and development, of shared services, to the benefit of front line staffing levels;

Expanding the use of video conferencing to reduce the time probation staff spend travelling to interview prisoners; and

A pilot in Surrey and Sussex Probation Trust to enable the use of professional judgement in deciding how to work most effectively with each individual.

A new performance framework which is currently being piloted in Surrey and Sussex contains around half the current number of indicators with a view to rolling out nationally from April 2011.

Within the financial constraints placed on all public services NOMS is committed to ensuring that resources continue to be targeted on front line work.

Sentencing: Transgender

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the number of transgender people who are serving custodial sentences. [19477]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not hold information on the number of transgender people who are serving custodial sentences. There are difficulties in collecting information on the numbers of transgender prisoners. It would require a prisoner to voluntarily provide information on their gender history, as it would not always be possible for a prison to identify a transgender person by any other means. Any monitoring of the numbers of transgender prisoners would thus likely be incomplete.

A further obstacle to collecting information on the numbers of transgender prisoners is that the Gender Recognition Act 2004 makes it an offence to disclose any information concerning the gender history of a person with a gender recognition certificate.

EDUCATION

Academies

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what mechanisms exist for parents to submit complaints about the operation of academy schools. [8981]

Mr Gibb: Academies are required by the independent school standards regulations to have a complaints procedure which must be available on request to parents. The procedure must provide for complaints to be managed within clear timescales. If initial informal consideration does not resolve the complaint, then the procedure must also include steps to escalate a complaint through both a formal written stage and, if necessary, a hearing before a panel that includes at least one member who is independent of the academy.

If the complaint cannot be resolved at school level the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) will be the next route of redress. The YPLA will review the evidence provided by the complainant and the academy to determine if the academy has followed its own complaints procedure or is in breach of a contractual or statutory obligation. If the academy has not followed its procedures or obligations it will be asked to do so to rectify any failings.

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what timetable has been set for determining the status of academy building programmes listed by his Department as for discussion; and if he will make a statement. [10449]

Mr Gibb: On 6 August the Government confirmed the capital allocation for some of the academy building programmes listed as for discussion, and announced that the capital allocation for the remaining academies would be announced after the spending review. Tudor Grange Academy, Worcester, falls in to the first category and so the Government have confirmed that the capital allocation for this academy will go ahead.

Academies: Special Educational Needs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will review the provisions governing the ability of *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* the Special Educational Needs Tribunal to name an academy on a statement of special educational need in order to permit an academy to be named on such a statement. [7007]

Mr Gibb: The Academies Act 2010 brought in new provisions which mean that in future all state-funded schools will have the same obligations in relation to children with special educational needs, including requirements with regard to the naming of a school on a statement of special educational needs.

In practical terms, the new obligations on Academies are:

An obligation to inform parents that their child has SEN and the special educational provision (SEP) being made;

An unqualified obligation to admit a child to the school if the school is named in the statement; and

An obligation to appoint a person as SENCO who is a qualified teacher and that new SENCOs will have to undertake prescribed training.

This applies to any new Academy and any existing Academy which moves to the new Funding Agreement, the contract between the Secretary of State and the Academy which regulates how an Academy operates. As a result, local authorities can now name an Academy on a statement of special educational needs in the same way as they can name a maintained school on a statement.

Parents, either for or against the naming of an Academy in the child's SEN statement, have always had the same rights of access to the First-tier Tribunal (Special Educational Needs and Disability). The First-tier Tribunal can determine that an Academy should be named on a statement of special educational needs.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what estimate he has made of the average cost to the public purse of refurbishing or rebuilding a school under the Building Schools for the Future scheme; [11796]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost of refurbishing or rebuilding a school in the five years prior to the commencement of the Building Schools for the Future scheme. [11816]

Mr Gibb: The average cost to the public purse of a refurbishment school under the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) scheme is £3.9 million. The average cost to the public purse of a new build school under the BSF scheme is £22 million. From a small sample of local authorities in Waves 5 and 6, the average cost to a local authority for its BSF scheme during pre-procurement was £1.6 million.

The Department for Education does not hold information on the average cost of refurbishing a school in the five years prior to the commencement of the BSF scheme.

Connexions Service: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what information his Department holds on reductions in funding to *(a)* Brighton and Hove Connexions Service, *(b)* Connexions services nationally and *(c)* other frontline services within his Department's area of responsibility; and what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in Connexions services on (i) the provision of careers support and guidance to young people, (ii) the number of young people not in education, employment or training and (iii) the number of young people accessing (A) substance misuse programmes, (B) teenage pregnancy and sexual health programmes and (C) reducing offending programmes. [14009]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 8 September 2010]:* The Department for Education does not hold information on the funding of individual Connexions services funded by grant from the Department. It is for Brighton and Hove city council, and for councils in other areas, to decide the level of funding for Connexions and other services supporting young people, and where to make savings. While the Department's area based grant (ABG) to local authorities was reduced by £311 million as part of the local government contribution to deficit reduction in 2010-11, the reduction in ABG does not imply a direct cut to the services funded by the grant. The Government have made it clear that local authorities should have the maximum flexibility to make efficiency savings from all their funding sources, taking into account their statutory responsibilities and the need to protect front line services as much as possible. We do not expect that cuts should fall disproportionately on Connexions services over others.

Departmental Legislation

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many statutory duties were placed on local authorities by legislation introduced by his Department and its predecessors in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [17020]

Sarah Teather: This information is not readily available and could be compiled only at disproportionate cost. The Government intend to reduce the level of central prescription, strengthen public accountability, trust local professionals and encourage new and diverse ways of providing services for children and families.

Departmental Photographs

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department has spent on official photographs of Ministers since the formation of the present administration. [6437]

Tim Loughton: The Department has spent £2,300 on official photographs of its Ministers. This is comparable with the previous Administration's costs, which were £2,038—27 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1685W.

Departmental Public Relations

Pete Wishart: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the monetary value was of *(a)* public opinion research and *(b)* public relations contracts awarded by his Department in each of the last five years in each region. [12440]

Tim Loughton: The Department has spent a total of £579,263 on public opinion research since 2006, which is outlined in table A. The figures cannot be broken down into regions without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table A

	Total spend (£)
2006-07	150,000
2007-08	135,660
2008-09	259,205
2009-10	34,398
Total	579,263

Public relations agencies are employed for specific communications tasks, most commonly working alongside our press office to provide campaign support in local, regional and specialist media. The Department's total expenditure on public relations since 2007 is outlined in table B. Figures cannot be provided for previous years or broken down into regions without incurring disproportionate cost.

Table B

	Total spend (£)
2007-08	1,818,398
2008-09	2,629,490
2009-10	1,886,726
Total	6,334,614

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16269]

Tim Loughton: There have been no inward secondments into the Department since 7 May 2010.

Further Education: Doncaster

Edward Miliband: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure the provision of funding to rebuild Campsmount Technology College in Doncaster North constituency. [8672]

Mr Gibb: The independent capital review team is working with building companies on a pilot proposal to rebuild Campsmount Technology College in Doncaster. There is a good prospect that the new school could be built ahead of the original schedule and with significant cost savings.

Schools: Capital Investment

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what capital spending allocations he plans to make for *(a)* new academy schools and *(b)* maintained schools in each of the next three years. [9548]

Mr Gibb: The Department has commissioned a review of all of its capital expenditure to inform decisions about future capital investment. This will include capital investment in new academies and maintained schools.

All funding after this financial year is subject to the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. The review team will provide an interim report in the autumn and a final report by the end of the year that will guide future spending decisions over the next spending review period (2011-12 to 2014-15).

Special Educational Needs

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will ensure that his Department's review of the funding formula addresses provision for special needs children. [11321]

Mr Gibb: Any review will address funding for the education of children with special needs.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the efficiency of the Special Educational Needs Tribunal Service. [19417]

Mr Djanogly: I have been asked to reply.

In November 2008 the Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal (SENDIST) was transferred to the Health, Education and Social Care Chamber of the First-tier Tribunal under the authority of the Tribunals, Courts and Enforcement Act 2007. The Tribunal has jurisdiction in England only. The Tribunals Service regularly reviews the processes of the Tribunal and its rules of procedure in consultation with stakeholders and user groups, including parental representative bodies. Tribunals Service officials are in regular contact with officials at the Department for Education.

The Tribunals Service Framework Document requires the agency to report the First-tier Tribunal' Special Educational Needs and Disability Tribunal's performance in its Annual Report and Accounts, copies of which are available in the Libraries of the House and on the Tribunals Service website:

www.tribunals.gov.uk

The Tribunal aims for 75% of hearings to take place within 22 weeks of registration of the appeal. In 2009/10 the percentage of cases disposed of within 22 weeks of receipt was 82%. The Tribunals Service has also published detailed official annual statistics for the operational year 2009-10 and, most recently, for the first quarter of 2010-11. The performance has risen to 83% for this first quarter.

Taxis

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department and its predecessors spent on taxi fares in each year since 1997. [12992]

Tim Loughton: The Department for Education was established under the machinery of government on 12 May 2010. Therefore the response covers its predecessors the Department for Children, Schools and Families (DCSF), which was established on 28 June 2007, and the Department for Education and Skills (DFES), which was established on 8 June 2001. To provide the information that has been requested would incur disproportionate cost.

Teachers and Classroom Assistants: Manpower

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants there were in maintained schools in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area in each year since 1997. [15624]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 September 2010]*: The information requested for full-time equivalent teachers and teaching assistants in 1997, 2001 to 2009 is published in tables 19 and 26 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School Workforce in England (including local authority level figures) January 2009 (Revised)' published on 29 September 2009. The SFR is available at the following web link:

www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000874/Tables19to27v2.xls

The equivalent information requested for 1998 to 2000 is published in tables 18 and 24 of the Statistical First Release (SFR) 'School workforce in England (including pupil:teacher ratios and pupil:adult ratios) January 2007 (Revised)' published on 27 September 2007. The SFR is available at the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/SFR/s000743/SFR29_2007_FinalTables18-25.xls

Teachers and Classroom Assistants: Pay

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of employing *(a)* teachers and *(b)* teaching assistants in (i) England and (ii) each local authority area in 2010-11. [15622]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 September 2010]:* The available information on how much has been spent on employing teachers and teaching assistants is shown in the following table. The Department is currently collecting and validating the section 251 outturn data relating to the 2009-10 financial year.

Expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England on teachers and education support staff for 2008-09

LA Name	*Expenditure on teachers*	*Expenditure on education support staff*
England	18,878,677,943	4,646,473,323
Barking and Dagenham	90,200,789	17,950,927
Barnet	133,690,882	34,444,470
Barnsley	76,932,603	20,576,204
Bath and North East Somerset	63,585,005	12,680,983
Bedfordshire	158,416,769	37,352,760
Bexley	101,229,121	23,355,690
Birmingham	480,443,321	112,270,944
Blackburn with Darwen	60,377,709	15,149,754
Blackpool	49,716,158	12,336,813
Bolton	107,831,132	30,122,552
Bournemouth	49,677,180	11,484,127
Bracknell Forest	36,573,486	7,005,568
Bradford	211,713,612	63,220,076
Brent	130,496,786	28,287,393
Brighton and Hove	75,608,326	19,156,090
Bristol, City of	109,590,817	30,541,428
Bromley	127,286,587	23,843,695
Buckinghamshire	185,034,905	44,721,543
Bury	67,031,882	14,707,382
Calderdale	85,917,252	20,263,742
Cambridgeshire	183,759,987	49,717,301
Camden	76,645,345	21,080,917
Cheshire	246,254,500	54,985,362
City of London	882,545	267,760
Cornwall	175,735,329	40,618,072
Coventry	126,952,723	28,157,162
Croydon	124,430,855	31,828,390
Cumbria	183,732,398	40,092,514
Darlington	34,266,765	9,590,485
Derby	91,530,245	29,206,945
Derbyshire	272,302,308	69,888,404
Devon	233,868,626	54,132,340
Doncaster	112,259,991	26,636,837
Dorset	139,454,997	31,193,746
Dudley	121,757,065	26,885,465
Durham	185,395,086	44,846,618
Ealing	120,155,182	32,591,435
East Riding of Yorkshire	113,116,368	26,094,269
East Sussex	156,218,192	37,334,827
Enfield	143,272,420	36,501,493
Essex	485,621,043	109,260,905
Gateshead	72,533,086	12,654,284
Gloucestershire	216,825,825	47,099,338
Greenwich	116,798,180	33,276,097
Hackney	80,056,299	24,437,428
Halton	50,254,710	10,078,360
Hammersmith and Fulham	53,208,205	15,431,446
Hampshire	414,449,593	90,902,052
Haringey	103,333,327	30,548,307
Harrow	81,918,664	21,619,821
Hartlepool	38,037,059	11,315,018
Havering	96,489,772	21,352,577
Herefordshire	56,951,631	12,068,788
Hertfordshire	443,931,148	89,222,739
Hillingdon	112,346,871	31,195,836
Hounslow	97,789,833	24,671,879
Isle of Wight	47,383,387	13,391,027
Isles of Scilly	1,246,012	182,532
Islington	72,982,902	21,116,516
Kensington and Chelsea	35,539,821	10,803,767
Kent	516,528,836	131,817,814
Kingston Upon Hull, City of	85,616,279	30,578,223
Kingston upon Thames	60,404,453	12,656,154
Kirklees	156,420,076	42,841,118
Knowsley	61,466,264	15,599,800
Lambeth	99,475,485	28,081,158
Lancashire	418,830,378	105,216,638
Leeds	255,321,738	70,764,821
Leicester	115,234,357	31,799,526
Leicestershire	222,303,090	51,081,682
Lewisham	105,740,553	28,580,761
Lincolnshire	247,683,342	61,112,655
Liverpool	186,501,160	39,187,260
Luton	73,240,780	28,633,483
Manchester	162,682,487	50,375,716
Medway	109,903,363	27,132,974
Merton	58,018,461	13,090,419
Middlesbrough	49,539,172	12,678,057
Milton Keynes	95,718,414	26,246,379
Newcastle upon Tyne	94,076,015	23,115,150
Newham	147,586,536	38,335,566
Norfolk	269,785,482	71,249,551
North East Lincolnshire	49,256,438	15,698,867
North Lincolnshire	56,106,135	14,764,323
North Somerset	67,635,255	15,562,749
North Tyneside	72,667,572	18,241,471
North Yorkshire	218,854,688	44,504,578
Northamptonshire	250,826,998	58,989,734
Northumberland	119,138,166	24,753,389
Nottingham	94,249,947	32,457,582
Nottinghamshire	281,957,816	70,499,669
Oldham	94,841,242	29,915,676
Oxfordshire	198,559,292	48,334,013
Peterborough	66,445,804	22,631,127
Plymouth	94,531,874	20,513,509
Poole	47,350,223	10,559,924
Portsmouth	58,930,918	16,865,555
Reading	40,094,087	10,961,630
Redbridge	129,718,660	28,131,086

Expenditure by local authority maintained schools in England on teachers and education support staff for 2008-09

LA Name	*Expenditure on teachers*	*Expenditure on education support staff*
Redcar and Cleveland	57,254,293	14,259,161
Richmond upon Thames	53,295,440	12,677,161
Rochdale	80,615,417	21,704,584
Rotherham	110,668,841	32,126,942
Rutland	12,125,666	2,754,474
Salford	76,194,826	20,621,192
Sandwell	110,813,374	37,510,570
Sefton	105,816,125	24,423,728
Sheffield	169,909,766	46,353,822
Shropshire	92,698,946	21,060,319
Slough	58,264,488	15,112,148
Solihull	79,633,204	17,515,022
Somerset	163,808,267	39,523,519
South Gloucestershire	95,549,824	20,429,024
South Tyneside	58,890,038	12,532,253
Southampton	65,417,338	17,920,275
Southend-on-Sea	69,777,589	19,521,738
Southwark	92,267,649	31,026,320
St Helens	66,850,119	15,548,571
Staffordshire	298,867,416	75,596,416
Stockport	90,027,387	17,264,211
Stockton-on-Tees	72,431,457	17,764,970
Stoke-on-Trent	81,376,779	27,076,486
Suffolk	248,821,267	52,140,235
Sunderland	113,065,149	27,016,105
Surrey	344,201,379	80,160,499
Sutton	84,721,948	17,878,748
Swindon	65,911,123	16,803,474
Tameside	83,219,185	18,607,462
Telford and Wrekin	55,946,132	15,436,545
Thurrock	52,562,098	16,024,910
Torbay	46,575,827	10,696,897
Tower Hamlets	133,925,651	42,066,400
Trafford	86,776,830	17,776,255
Wakefield	117,672,065	28,624,257
Walsall	116,935,008	29,173,818
Waltham Forest	102,151,454	26,635,610
Wandsworth	95,833,102	27,880,022
Warrington	76,397,242	17,401,911
Warwickshire	182,790,489	40,008,782
West Berkshire	65,487,639	14,585,303
West Sussex	259,029,497	55,676,803
Westminster	56,360,443	14,237,654
Wigan	119,143,401	25,193,019
Wiltshire	160,119,140	34,598,162
Windsor and Maidenhead	48,774,709	11,054,803
Wirral	132,798,667	28,642,861
Wokingham	57,964,598	13,730,642
Wolverhampton	101,136,201	25,503,572
Worcestershire	196,718,339	40,448,115
York	56,800,657	12,836,566

Notes:

1. Financial information used in this answer are taken from the DFE section 251 outturn statements.
2. These figures include all expenditure on teachers employed directly by the school, supply teachers and agency supply teachers.
3. Education support staff includes all staff employed directly by the school in support of students' learning, i.e. child care staff, classroom assistants/learning support assistants, exam invigilators, foreign language assistants, librarians, nursery assistants, pianists, residential child care officers at a residential special school, Supply education support staff, workshop and technology technicians, expenditure on salaries and wages consisting of gross pay, including of bonus and allowances, maternity pay and the employer's contributions to national insurance and superannuation, educational welfare officers.
4. Cash terms figures as reported by local authorities as at 15 September 2010.

DEFENCE

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Thomas Docherty: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether there will be changes to the surface warship refurbishment workstream for Rosyth dockyard following the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [19670]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* As has been the practice since the formation of the Surface Ship Support Alliance (SSSA), discussions have been continuous between members of the SSSA (the Department, Babcock Marine and BAE Systems Surface Ships) about the best allocation of the forward programme of upkeep periods for the Royal Navy surface warships. Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review, it is too early to say what changes might be required to the programme at Rosyth and elsewhere in the SSSA.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contribution his Department has made to the financing of the Afghan *(a)* army and *(b)* police force in the latest period in which figures are available. [19402]

Dr Fox: In 2009-10, the United Kingdom provided financing through the tri-departmental conflict pool of £8.8 million for the Afghan national police and £0.5 million for the Afghan national army.

Over the same period, the United Kingdom also made significant contributions to Afghan army and police development through the embedded partnering of British and Afghan forces, our contribution to the NATO training mission—Afghanistan and EUPOL missions, and other targeted assistance linked to operations funded through the Treasury reserve.

Air Force: Training

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to improve simulated training in the Royal Air Force. [19559]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Air Force's (RAF) use of simulators already forms a key element through the full spectrum of training provided to RAF personnel from basic training onwards. The use of simulators offers cost-effective and practical training for a wide range of appropriate and relevant skills and the RAF is working closely with the Ministry of Defence, allies and industry to maximise the benefits available from this approach. In particular, the RAF is currently developing two major simulator-based projects. The first links realistic simulation environments for training fast jet pilots, ISTAR (Intelligence Surveillance Targeting, Acquisition and Reconnaissance) and aviation specialisations. This is planned to enter service with the RAF in 2013. The second aims to deliver an enhanced training capability in support of the RAF's air transport capability, including the C130J and A400M aircraft. This project is also planned to be in use by 2013. However, it needs to be recognised that a significant irreducible element of live flying training by the RAF will be required to maintain the safe operation of front-line aircraft for the foreseeable future.

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the draw-down of troops from Germany; [19567]

(2) what procedure he plans to use to effect the draw-down of troops from Germany; [19568]

(3) what his timetable is for the draw-down of troops from Germany; [19569]

(4) where he expects armed forces personnel drawn-down from Germany to be based upon return to the UK. [19570]

Nick Harvey: As the Prime Minister announced in the House of Commons on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 797, as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Government have decided to accelerate the re-basing of 20,000 military personnel in Germany with a view to returning half of those personnel to the UK by 2015 and the remainder by 2020.

More detailed work will now be undertaken to identify precisely how this will be implemented. It is therefore too early to say what the financial impact will be or specifically where returning personnel will be based.

Armed Forces: North East

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many people from the North East are serving in the armed forces. [19363]

Peter Luff: The information is not available in the format requested. However, as at 1 July 2010 there were 1,440 service personnel stationed in the region covered by the Government office north-east. The figure quoted includes the region's total for Darlington, Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland, Stockton-on-Tees, County Durham, Northumberland and Tyne and Wear.

Army

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what procedure he intends to use to determine which two of the 10 regional brigade headquarters will be closed; [19379]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department arising from the closure of two of the 10 regional brigade headquarters; [19380]

(3) what savings he expects to accrue to his Department from the closure of two of the 10 regional brigade headquarters in the next 12 months; [19381]

(4) what assessment he has made of the potential saving to the public purse of the reduction in the Army's non-deployable regional administrative structure; [19438]

(5) by what means his Department plans to reduce the non-deployable regional administrative structure of the Army; [19439]

(6) what estimate he has made of the cost of replacing the four regional division headquarters with one UK support command; [19440]

(7) what estimate he has made of the potential savings to the public purse consequent on replacing the four regional division headquarters with one UK support command. [19441]

Nick Harvey: As stated in the White Paper on the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR), the Army will significantly reduce its non-deployable administration structure in order to enhance its focus on front-line capabilities. The current four regional divisional headquarters will be replaced with a single UK Support Command and at least two regional brigade headquarters will close. This will generate savings in personnel and estate costs. It is too early to provide detailed estimates.

A project team was established in June 2010 to examine and rationalise the Army's non-deployable regional administrative structure after the publication of the SDSR. This team will continue the detailed work of identifying the most cost-effective way of achieving this transformation.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his Department's most recent estimate is of the likely time period for which each of the Army's five multi-role brigades will be kept in a state of high-readiness at any one time; [19434]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of *(a)* training and *(b)* configuring the Army's five multi-role brigades. [19435]

Nick Harvey: The Army's five new multi-role brigades will consist of 6,500 personnel and provide a wide range of capabilities, allowing them to operate effectively across the variety of possible conflicts that could arise over the next decades. It is likely that one multi-role brigade will be kept at readiness for a period of six months on rotation.

It is too early to assess the likely cost of training and configuring the multi-role brigades.

Army: Manpower

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the *(a)* required and *(b)* actual training strength is of the (i) 4th Battalion of the Royal Scottish Regiment, (ii) 5th Battalion of the Royal Scottish Regiment, (iii) 5th Battalion of the Rifles, (iv) 21 Engineer Regiment, (v) 28 Engineer Regiment, (vi) 32 Engineer Regiment,

(vii) 35 Engineer Regiment, (viii) Royal Scots Dragoon Guards, (ix) Queen's Royal Hussars, (x) the Queen's Dragoon Guards and (xi) 9th/12th Royal Lancers. [19446]

Nick Harvey: The most recently available figures for each unit are in the following table.

	Required strength	*Actual strength*
4th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland	640	480
5th Battalion of the Royal Regiment of Scotland	591	560
5th Battalion of the Rifles	636	650
21 Engineer Regiment	626	660
28 Engineer Regiment	569	600
32 Engineer Regiment	625	640
35 Engineer Regiment	626	660
Royal Scots Dragoon Guards	455	420
Queen's Royal Hussars	455	460
Queen's Dragoon Guards	331	340
9th/12th Royal Lancers	331	330

The figures represent the peacetime establishments of the units concerned, and include full-time personnel only. As a result of differences in the method of calculation, the totals for the four Engineer Regiments include personnel from other arms and services who are on the units' establishment, while the figures for the other units include only personnel of the Infantry or Royal Armoured Corps as appropriate.

Astute Class Submarines

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the cost is of the seventh Astute-class submarine. [19382]

Peter Luff: On 19 October 2010, the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) (Cm7948) confirmed the Department's intention to purchase the seventh Astute class submarine. It also stated that the Department will work with British industry to improve efficiency and optimise its capacity to build and support submarines.

The outcome of this work will inform the procurement costs and in-service dates for the Astute class submarines, including boat 7. It will not be possible to confirm this information until it has been approved through the Department's and HM Treasury's formal investment approvals processes.

Atomic Weapons Establishment: Fire Regulations

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what investigation his Department has undertaken into the fire protection procedures at Atomic Weapons Establishment Aldermaston following the fire in August 2010. [19606]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: The Defence Fire Risk Management Organisation has undertaken two investigations into the Atomic Weapons Establishment's fire protection procedures as a result of the fire that occurred on 3 August. One investigation focused on the cause of the fire and the other focused on the fire and rescue services' operational response.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether he has had discussions with his Russian counterpart on NATO's proposed anti-ballistic missile shield; [18529]

(2) what representations he has received on the participation of the Russian government in NATO's proposed anti-ballistic missile shield. [18530]

Mr Gerald Howarth: No such discussions have taken place, nor representations received.

Chelsea Barracks: Property Transfer

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether the remaining £159 million balance from the sale of Chelsea Barracks will be allocated to his Department; [17907]

(2) what discussions he has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the allocation of the remaining balance from the sale of Chelsea Barracks for expenditure on armed forces' accommodation; [17908]

(3) with reference to the answers of 6 February 2008, *Official Report*, column 1148W, on Chelsea Barracks: sales, and 29 January 2008, *Official Report, House of Lords*, WA100, on Army: Chelsea Barracks, when it was decided that the allocation of the final payment from the proceeds of the sale of Chelsea Barracks would be subject to negotiation with HM Treasury. [17909]

Peter Luff: The spending review, published on 20 October 2010, sets out the Department's capital budget for the next four years. This takes account of the position set out in the comprehensive spending review 2007 regarding the disposal of Chelsea Barracks.

Claro Barracks Ripon

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for *(a)* the maintenance of and *(b)* expenditure on (i) facilities and (ii) housing at Claro Barracks, Ripon in each of the next three years. [15831]

Mr Robathan: Expenditure on maintenance over the next three years is currently anticipated at around £1.5 million per year.

Housing at Claro Barracks is not currently within the upgrade programme but this remains under review.

The MOD is currently undertaking a Strategic Defence and Security Review. The rationalisation and development of future estates and the management of defence infrastructure is included within it. The outcome will be announced in due course.

Defence: Procurement

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he next plans to review arrangements for defence procurement; and if he will make a statement. [19196]

Peter Luff: Reform of the Ministry of Defence's procurement processes remains an essential and ongoing programme of activity within the Department. This is being taken forward by the Defence Acquisition Reform Programme (DARP) team. I welcome the recent National

Audit Office Major Projects Report which recognised the Department's improved project management performance.

In August 2010 my right hon. Friend the Defence Secretary launched the Defence Reform Unit under the leadership of Lord Levene. One of the areas the Review is looking at is that of acquisition reform, working with the DARP team. Lord Levene will look to work closely on this with the next Chief of Defence Materiel, once they are appointed. The Review aims to report in July 2011.

Defence: Training

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the future of defence training in the UK. [19414]

Nick Harvey *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: The Government are committed to ensuring our armed forces are given the high quality training they require whatever their role.

Regarding defence technical training specifically, the Ministry of Defence worked tirelessly to deliver the Defence Training Rationalisation project but it became clear that Metrix could not deliver an affordable, commercially robust proposal within the prescribed period and it was therefore necessary to terminate the procurement and Metrix's appointment as preferred bidder.

For good reasons, St Athan was previously chosen as the best location on which to situate a defence technical college and it remains an option for the location of future defence technical training.

Work will begin as soon as possible to determine the optimal approach to meeting our technical training requirement and where it is to be located. As an interim measure, training will continue to be delivered at current locations.

Departmental Official Cars

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1053W, on departmental official cars, how many cars constitute his Department's car pool; and if he will make a statement. [19177]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: There are approximately 22 vehicles which form the car pool available to Ministers and senior personnel in Main Building, London.

The Ministry of Defence also has White Fleet vehicle contracts that could be used to meet vehicle requirements across various locations in the United Kingdom, Northern Ireland and British Forces Germany. Top Level Budgets have delegated authority to determine the number of pool cars held locally, subject to the constraint that it should be sufficient to provide for normal tasking needs only.

As was the case under previous Governments, all service personnel, civil servants and special advisers may use an official car or taxi in properly defined circumstances. Ministers and senior personnel employed in our headquarters have given up their cars with a dedicated driver and share pool cars instead.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since 1997; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18726]

Peter Luff: The Department currently has over 500 pay-related allowances and payments in addition to salary available to civilian staff, the majority of which are listed on the People, Pay and Pensions Agency (PPPA) website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=us131&cat=pay_and
_expenses&actp=list.htm

Travel and subsistence claims and transfer allowances are payable to civilian staff, in addition to salary. These are listed on the PPPA website:

http://www.pppaservices.qinetiq-tim.com/
https@knowledge.chris.r.mil.uk/pppa/
index@page=content&id=pr200&cat=travel_and
_subsistence&actp=list.htm

Information on the monetary value of each type of allowance and payment in each year since 1997 is not held in the format requested, and could be provided only at disproportionate cost. However, information is available from July 2007, but will take a short while to compile. I will write to my hon. Friend with the information as soon as possible.

As the Strategic Defence and Security Review made clear, we intend to simplify the allowance structure, as part of an update of the current package of terms and conditions of service.

Energy Supply: International Cooperation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the merits of designating energy security an Article 5 matter under the North Atlantic Treaty. [14476]

Mr Gerald Howarth: NATO's role in addressing the range of security challenges we face will be articulated in a new strategic concept, which is due to be endorsed at a summit meeting in Lisbon in November. However, article 5 of the North Atlantic treaty concerns an armed attack on one or more allies. Wider security challenges to the alliance, such as energy security, are more appropriately addressed under article 4 of the treaty:

> "The Parties will consult together whenever, in the opinion of any of them, the territorial integrity, political independence or security of any of the Parties is threatened."

Such consultations would determine the appropriate response by the alliance.

European Fighter Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoons can be used for close air support; and what weapons those Typhoons can carry. [19447]

Peter Luff: Of the 66 strong Typhoon fleet, 23 aircraft are multi-role capable and can carry out close air support activity. The number of aircraft that can be used for close air support will grow as more Tranche 1 aircraft are upgraded to a multi-role capability. These multi-role aircraft can employ the following weapons: Paveway and Enhanced Paveway II Laser Guided Bombs, which are supported by Litening III Laser Designator Pods; and 1,000 lbs Freefall Bombs. An enhanced air-to-surface capability is expected to be integrated on Tranche 2 aircraft from 2012. Further weapon upgrades are also under consideration to enable Typhoon to employ a greater variety of air-to-surface munitions in future.

Ex-servicemen: Radiation Exposure

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of the payment of a war pension to each eligible individual affected by ionising radiation arising from nuclear tests undertaken by his Department. [19373]

Mr Robathan: Some 21,000 UK personnel were involved in the nuclear test programme conducted between 1952 and 1958.

All former members of HM forces, including nuclear test veterans, suffering from a disablement caused by an illness or injury attributable to service in the armed forces before 6 April 2005, may apply for compensation in the form of a war pension.

At current war pension rates, the Ministry of Defence may pay a basic war pension worth up to £154.70 per week, depending on the degree of disablement. Additional supplementary benefits based on factors such as age, mobility and employability can increase this figure to over £525 per week. The scheme also makes provision for widows and widowers of personnel whose death is attributable to service. All cases for war pensions are considered on their specific service and medical facts and individuals may appeal to an independent tribunal. It is therefore not possible to estimate the cost of paying all nuclear test veterans a war pension.

MOD spends around £1 billion per year on war pensions. We do not collate separately figures for nuclear test veterans claiming war pensions.

Ex-servicemen: Unemployment

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made an estimate of the number of former members of the armed services of working age who are unemployed; and what steps his Department is taking to *(a)* provide support to and *(b)* assist with access to training for such former personnel to help them back into employment. [19291]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is unable to estimate the number of former members of the armed forces of working age who are unemployed. However, all service personnel, regardless of time served, are entitled to some form of resettlement. Data to improve our understanding of the situation are being gathered in order to make our system of resettlement more personalised and sophisticated. This can range from advice on how to find employment, through to formal training activity to complement the transferable skills they have acquired through service. All injured service personnel who are discharged will receive the full resettlement package, that in some cases can be deferred until they are well enough to undertake resettlement activity.

The most recent data available from the NAO show that resettlement outcomes remain impressive: over 90% of personnel who transition using the services of the Career Transition Partnership (a partnering arrangement between MOD and Right Management Limited, a leading specialist outplacement company) are in employment within six months of being discharged. Nevertheless, the MOD recognises that making the transition from the armed forces into civilian life can be daunting and we are doing more to enhance the resettlement package.

Prior to discharge, individual employment needs are identified from a mandatory interview with a trained service resettlement adviser who is able to signpost to a number of organisations and services ranging from the 'Flexible New Deal' programme available at Jobcentre Plus through to workshops and training delivered through the Career Transition Partnership. For those who have left, lifetime job finding support is available through the Officers' Association or the Regular Forces Employment Association. There are also various regimental associations, for example RAJA (Royal Electrical and Mechanical Engineer (REME) Association Job Agency) that provide further help for former soldiers of certain regiments.

In addition, the MOD has been working closely with the Department for Work and Pensions and armed forces champions have been appointed that aim to ensure Jobcentre Plus staff are providing the correct advice and support, not only to families of our armed forces but also to former service personnel.

Military Aircraft: Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which aircraft in the RAF can use the *(a)* Harpoon AGM-84D and *(b)* Sting Ray missile. [19445]

Peter Luff: No RAF aircraft have the capability to carry these weapon systems; indeed the Harpoon AGM-84D variant was withdrawn from service in 2004. However, the Royal Navy (RN) retains a variety of platforms capable of using both Sting Ray and Harpoon, or other weapons systems with a similar capability. In the anti-shipping role, RN Frigates are fitted with Harpoon, while Lynx helicopters carry the Sea Skua missile. Both RN Merlin and Lynx helicopters are capable of delivering the Sting Ray Torpedo.

Nuclear Fuels

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will publish an update on the quantities of *(a)* plutonium, *(b)* enriched uranium and *(c)* other special nuclear materials that are outside international safeguards. [19137]

Dr Fox: We have no plans to publish follow-up documents to the historical accounts of defence fissile material holdings. The Government are committed to transparency and openness about the defence nuclear programme when compatible with national security and the UK's international obligations under article 1 of the nuclear non-proliferation treaty. We will keep under review the opportunities for greater openness on other special nuclear material holdings.

RAF Lossiemouth: Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason Lossiemouth was selected as preferred base station for the proposed Joint Strike Fighter. [19241]

Nick Harvey: I refer the hon. Member to the oral statement given by the previous Administration on 17 November 2005, *Official Report*, column 1119. Work is now under way to consider the implications of decisions announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review for UK military bases.

Royal Navy: Manpower

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on HMNB Clyde of the proposed reduction of Royal Navy staff by 5,000 by 2015. [19714]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: The impact of the Strategic Defence and Security Review announcements on personnel numbers across all of the naval service's activities is currently being assessed. Reductions will be achieved through a combination of natural wastage and compulsory redundancy over the four-year planning round period. Initial numbers and profiles will be established over the next few months and refined in subsequent planning rounds. It is therefore too early to judge the effects on specific locations of the planned reductions in the number of Royal Navy personnel.

Type 26 Frigates

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the Type 26 Frigate programme. [19314]

Peter Luff: The cost to the Department of progressing the Type 26 programme, the Global Combat Ship, from the concept stage through to the completion of the four-year assessment stage is estimated to be approximately £170 million.

The cost of building the ships will be determined at the main investment decision point, anticipated to be by the middle of this decade.

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of jobs dependent on the Type 26 Frigate programme. [19317]

Peter Luff: At the peak of the Type 26 (Global Combat Ship) four-year assessment phase, currently under way, it is anticipated that there will be approximately 300 people engaged on the programme on a full-time basis with further people employed on sub-contracts. It is too early to estimate the number of people that will be engaged on the programme following the completion of the assessment phase.

Warships

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what potential sites he has identified for Royal Navy ships kept in extended readiness. [19376]

Peter Luff: For reasons of security the work of placing warships into extended readiness and maintaining them in that state is only undertaken in the Royal Navy base ports of Her Majesty's Naval Base Portsmouth, Devonport and Clyde.

Mr Alan Campbell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many full-time equivalent jobs he expects to be dependent on keeping Royal Navy ships in extended readiness in 2011-12; [19383]

(2) what estimate he has made of the average cost of keeping a Royal Navy ship in extended readiness for 12 months in the latest period for which figures are available; [19384]

(3) what procedures his Department uses to enable companies to bid for work involved in placing a Royal Navy ship into extended readiness. [19385]

(4) what estimate he has made of the average cost of placing a Royal Navy ship into extended readiness in the latest period for which figures are available; [19386]

(5) what the procedure is for a Royal Navy ship to be placed into extended readiness. [19387]

Peter Luff: The procedures for placing a Royal Navy warship into extended readiness vary depending on the length of time the platform is planned to be at this readiness level and the future plans for the vessel. The Surface Ship Support Alliance (SSSA) manages the work required to place warships in extended readiness through agreement between its members: the Ministry of Defence, Babcock Marine and BAE Systems Surface Ships.

The most recent warship to be placed in extended readiness was HMS Invincible. The work to prepare her for extended readiness took place during 2005-06 and cost £2.5 million. The cost of keeping her in extended readiness is estimated at approximately £52,000 a year. It is important to note that as HMS Invincible is an aircraft carrier at the end of her service life, these costs cannot be considered representative of the average cost of placing or keeping any other Royal Naval ship in extended readiness.

Following the Strategic Defence and Security Review announcement, further work is under way to identify the package of work required to ensure that ships placed in extended readiness in 2011-12 are maintained in the appropriate condition. It is not possible to say with any accuracy the level of manpower resource needed to support the Royal Navy ships in extended readiness until this is complete.

TREASURY

Child Benefit: Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Gateshead constituency will be affected by the proposed changes to the administration of child benefit. [19364]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Child Benefit: Scotland

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people in Scotland earning over £37,401 receive child benefit. [16323]

Mr Gauke: HMRC estimates that around 26,000 adults in Scotland have incomes over £37,401 and also received child benefit payments in 2009-10.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18765]

Justine Greening: The Cabinet Office has published annual sickness absence reports for the civil service (from 2003 to 2007), these can be viewed via:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

Reliable data before 2002 are not available from HMT electronic systems.

HM Treasury days lost due to staff sickness from 2007 onwards are as follows:

	Days
2007-2008	5,507
2008-2009	4,187
2009-2010	4,771

Estimated costs of staff sickness are not recorded, therefore this information could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18796]

Justine Greening: Sick absence for HM Treasury is recorded and monitored on the electronic HR system. However it is not recorded in the format required for this PQ. Therefore the information requested could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

However the Cabinet Office has published previous annual sickness absence reports for the Civil Service (2003-2007). These can be viewed at:

http://www.civilservice.gov.uk/about/resources/sickness/sickness.aspx

Departmental Stationery

Graham Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its agencies and non-departmental public bodies spent on stationery in each year since 1997. [7454]

Justine Greening: The information requested is shown in the following table:

			£000
	HM Treasury (HMT)	*Debt Management Office (DMO)*	*Asset Protection Agency (APA)*
2002-03	263	23	n/a
2003-04	308	17	n/a
2004-05	264	23	n/a
2005-06	256	17	n/a
2006-07	289	14	n/a
2007-08	289	13	n/a
2008-09	263	28	n/a
2009-10	331	27	5

Data for HM Treasury and DMO are not available prior to 2002-03 due to the introduction of a new accounting system in that year. APA was formed in December 2009.

Stationery spending by the Royal Mint Advisory Committee is not separately identifiable within the Royal Mint's accounting system and cannot be provided.

Economic Situation

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his Department has *(a)* undertaken and *(b)* evaluated recent research on the social effects of increases in gross domestic product. [19257]

Justine Greening: The Treasury published an economic working paper 'Developments in the economics of well-being' in November 2008, which considered economic growth and well-being.

In the June 2010 Budget, the Government stated their commitment to developing broader indicators of well-being and sustainability. The Office for National Statistics (ONS) and the Cabinet Office are leading work on taking forward the recommendations of the 2009 Stiglitz, Sen and Fitoussi report on the measurement of economic performance and social progress. The ONS article, 'There's more to life than GDP but how can we measure it?', published in September 2010 identifies relevant outputs and initiatives that support this broader societal well-being agenda and areas for potential development.

DEFRA publishes cross-government sustainable development indicators annually, covering economic, social and environmental issues, and including well-being. The latest edition 'Measuring progress: sustainable development indicators 2010' was published in July 2010 at:

www.defra.gov.uk/sustainable/government/progress

The Government continue to engage with the European Commission, Eurostat and other EU member states on developing broader indicators of well-being and sustainability, building on the Commission's communication 'GDP and Beyond-Measuring Progress in a Changing World, from August 2009' (see EM 12739/09).

EU Budget

Alun Cairns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with his EU counterparts on the increased EU budget contributions agreed in the European Parliament on 20 October 2010. [19613]

Justine Greening *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: I and other Government Ministers are working hard to make the case to our counterparts across the European Union for a freeze in the EU budget.

We have been absolutely clear that we cannot accept the 6% budget increase from 2010 levels, proposed by the Commission at the start of these negotiations. We also therefore oppose the European Parliament's suggested budget increase, which—while still representing a 6% increase overall—is higher still than the Commission's proposal. This is completely out of step with the very tough fiscal consolidation measures being taken not just in the UK, but also by Governments across the EU.

In Brussels on 14 October, I strongly urged MEPs not to support such an increase, and will continue to engage in this way.

Financial Markets

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what representations he has received on the Financial Services Authority and his Department's report on Reforming OTC derivative markets: A UK perspective, published in December 2009. [17854]

Mr Hoban: Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations from a wide variety of organisations in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. As was the case with previous Administrations, it is not the Government's practice to provide details of all such meetings and discussions.

Human Rights

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18761]

Justine Greening: The information sought (on the estimated cost of complying with domestic, European and international human rights requirements) is not recorded in, or derivable from, the Department's records. The Department takes account of the domestic and relevant international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations. An accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

National Insurance

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many active national insurance numbers HM Revenue and Customs recorded in the last 24 months. [19320]

Mr Gauke: HMRC's latest figures available show that it registered approximately 1.6 million new national insurance numbers (NINOs) on our systems between April 2008 and March 2009 and 1.4 million new NINOs between April 2009 and March 2010.

National insurance numbers are used for several purposes and it would be disproportionately expensive to identify how many of these national insurance accounts have been active in the past 24 months.

PAYE

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) has made of the effect on other HMRC services of the recent miscalculations of tax liability under the PAYE system. [15451]

Mr Gauke: HMRC managed the issues that arose at PAYE Annual Coding 2010 by reprioritising work loads on a daily basis to keep the operational effects to a minimum. HMRC services other than PAYE were unaffected.

HMRC will continue to prioritise resources to support customers through the PAYE 2008-09 and 2009-10 end of year reconciliation exercise.

Poverty: Children

Stephen Timms: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to his statement of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 949-63, on the comprehensive spending review, what estimate he has made, based on the model referred to in the statement, of the likely effect on the level of child poverty of implementation of the proposals in the spending review in each of the next four years. [19517]

Justine Greening: The spending review announced a package of reforms to reduce the deficit while supporting the most vulnerable. This included withdrawing child benefit from families with a higher rate taxpayer, and using some of savings to fund above-indexation increases in the child tax credit. As a result, the spending review will have no measurable impact on child poverty in the next two years.

The Prime Minister has asked the right hon. Member for Birkenhead (Mr Field) to conduct an independent review on poverty and life chances in the UK. This review will inform the Government's longer term child poverty strategy, which will be published in March.

Estimates of the impact of spending review measures on the number of children in relative poverty after 2012-13 are not available due to reservations over forecasting median household incomes (from which low-income poverty thresholds are calculated) further ahead.

Public Expenditure

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what *(a)* growth and *(b)* inflation assumptions he based the estimates used in the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [19678]

Justine Greening: The CSR estimates were prepared on the basis of growth and inflation forecasts produced by the OBR for the June Budget; these are included in Table C5: Determinants of the fiscal forecast of the Budget.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what conditions he plans to attach to the support provided to Augusta Westland civil rotocraft design and manufacture referred to in the spending review 2010. [19853]

Danny Alexander: In line with standard practice, the precise terms and conditions of such support will be commercially confidential.

Revenue and Customs: Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax inspectors HM Revenue and Customs employed in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [15916]

Mr Gauke: HMRC no longer uses the term tax inspector.

HMRC deployed approximately 32,000 staff at all grades in 2008-09 on a variety of compliance activities including risk assessment, addressing inaccurate returns and verifying repayment claims, debt collection and criminal investigations across all heads of duty. The equivalent figure for 2009-10 was some 31,000 staff.

Officers engaged in this work could cover everything from correcting relatively low value errors made by small businesses and individuals to significant risks among the largest corporates, as well as countering criminal attacks on the tax and duty systems.

Revenue and Customs: Pay

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* average annual salary of a tax inspector and *(b)* average annual amount of unpaid tax recovered by a tax inspector. [15917]

Mr Gauke: HMRC no longer uses the term tax inspector. Details of HMRC's pay structure can be found:

http://data.gov.uk/dataset/staff-organograms-and-pay-hmrc

Compliance officers at all grades are engaged in a wide range of activities, which may include risk assessment, recovery of underpaid tax, the prevention of further tax losses, debt collection and the deterrence of tax evasion through, for example criminal investigation.

For this reason, HMRC does not collect statistics on the average salary or average revenue collected by a compliance officer. HMRC's compliance intervention results were published in their 2009 autumn performance report, available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/cm77/7774/7774.pdf

Senior Civil Servants : Redundancy

Priti Patel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of making redundant an HM Revenue and Customs official in a Senior Civil Service grade. [18263]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* Estimates for the cost of redundancy depend on the individual(s) concerned and the terms of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme (CSCS), which is currently being reviewed with primary legislation also currently going through Parliament.

The latest update on this can be found at:

http://www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/newsroom/news_releases/2010/101007-compensation.aspx

which includes a stylised example of the cost of making a very senior civil servant redundant under proposed new CSCS terms. The cost calculated would apply to a senior employee of HMRC who had the salary and length of service given in the example.

To date HMRC has not made any member of the senior civil service (SCS) compulsorily redundant, and will continue to do all that it can to avoid compulsory redundancies as far as practically possible.

Taxation

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has received in tax revenues from *(a)* tobacco and *(b)* alcohol sales in each of the last five years. [19768]

Justine Greening: Total duties received in each of the past five years are summarised in the following table:

Total duties on tobacco and alcohol

£ million

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Alcohol	7,861	7,913	8,302	8,470	9,012
Tobacco	7,959	8,149	8,094	8,219	8,813

HMRC does not collect VAT data on specific products. Receipts figures from alcohol and tobacco duties are published monthly by HMRC in the alcohol and tobacco duty bulletins, available at:

https://www.uktradeinfo.com/index.cfm?task=bulletins&hasFlashPlayer=true

Taxation: Construction

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent estimate is of the average time taken by HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) to issue a unique taxpayer reference number; what steps HMRC is taking to reduce that time; and if he will make a statement. [19621]

Mr Gauke: In September HMRC published a revised turnaround time of eight weeks for the issue of a Unique Tax Payer Reference (UTR). This timing represents the turnaround from the customer posting the application until processing has been completed and the customer receives the appropriate output. It is currently taking up to nine weeks for a UTR to be issued and plans are in place to reduce this to six weeks by the end of the year.

Detailed analysis of the full end-to-end process involving agents and other interested parties is currently under way to identify potential improvements with the aim of delivering a more streamlined and more efficient process in the future.

Third Sector: Finance

Greg Mulholland: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the Minister for Civil Society on the likely effects of the outcome of the spending review on funding for voluntary and community organisations. [19260]

Justine Greening: Ministers from Cabinet Office and HM Treasury are in regular contact and have discussed the potential impact of the spending review on the sector. This includes ways of helping voluntary and community organisations transition to a tighter funding environment and future opportunities presented by increased public service delivery.

At spending review, a £100 million transitional fund was announced to further support those in this sector in their work providing front-line public services.

VAT

Chris Evans: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what his most recent assessment is of the potential effect on retail prices of implementation of the change in the rate of VAT to 20 per cent. [17597]

Mr Gauke: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), who has been asked to reply.

Working Tax Credit: Scotland

Miss Begg: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by the freezing of the (i) basic and (ii) 30-hour element of working tax credit; [19452]

(2) whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by the proposed reduction of the percentage of child care costs which parents may claim through the child care element of the working tax credit; [19453]

(3) whether he has made an estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by proposed implementation of the changes to the eligibility rules for working tax credits. [19454]

Mr Gauke: The Government have frozen the basic and 30 hour elements of working tax credit, reduced the proportion of child care costs that can be claimed from 80% to 70%, and changed the working hours rule so that couples with children have to work 24 hours between them to be eligible for working tax credit. To ensure support is better targeted at low income families with children, some of the savings from these measures have been recycled into increases to the child tax credit in 2011-12 and 2012-13 such that there is no measurable negative impact on child poverty.

All families who are entitled to tax credits will be affected by this package.

The latest information on the number of households benefiting from tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency and local authority, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses', available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Children: Health

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department allocated to projects on the health of children aged under five years in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [19890]

Mr O'Brien: Efforts to improve the health of children under-five are an important part of many of Department for International Development funded programmes and of our efforts to strengthen health systems in partner countries. However it is not possible to disaggregate expenditure to improve the health of children under-five from our wider health care spend without incurring disproportionate cost.

In 2008-09 DFID's total spend on health was over £1 billion. Figures for 2009-10 will be available in January 2011.

Details of DFID's bilateral projects, including a summary description of each, are published in the project database on the DFID website.

Colombia: Overseas Aid

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what objectives were set for the outcome of projects in Colombia funded by his Department in the last five years; and what mechanisms were used to assess the outcomes of such projects against those objectives. [19432]

Mr O'Brien: Projects funded by the Department for International Development (DFID) in Colombia in the last five years focused on reducing poverty and inequality in line with the international community's commitment to achieve the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015. Objectives included increasing the access of poor and excluded people to credit, promoting the active role of women in decision making, and supporting those displaced by civil conflict or disasters. DFID's regional office in Bolivia closed in September 2008.

All DFID development partners provide detailed annual reporting and monitoring information. This allows DFID to check the progress of funded interventions against pre-defined objectives and plans and assess whether it has achieved desired outcomes at the end of a project.

DFID's work in Colombia is also being assessed as part of the ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid reviews, which will report early next year.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what conditions were placed on the allocation of funding to Colombia in the last five years. [19433]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has supported a number of projects through partner organisations and civil society in Colombia over the last five years, alongside core contributions to multilateral agencies.

We do not use conditions to impose specific policy choices on recipients of DFID funding, but we do use them to help ensure that aid is used effectively for the purposes intended, is not misused through corruption, and can be accounted for to the UK Parliament. Standard conditions include: access for DFID to project sites and to relevant records for the purposes of monitoring, evaluation and audit; provision of annual progress reports to DFID; and continuation of projects being dependent upon satisfactory progress being achieved in the first year.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much aid the Government has allocated to projects in Colombia in each of the last five years. [19508]

Mr O'Brien: A breakdown of bilateral aid provided to Colombia from 2005-06 to 2009-10 is provided in the following table (£000). Details of UK aid expenditure are published annually in Statistics on International Development, which is available on the Department for International Development (DFID) website and in the Library of the House.

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
Other financial aid	0	0	[1]-14	0	0
Technical co-operation	35	14	0	0	0
Bilateral aid delivered through an NGO	236	270	273	219	0
Humanitarian assistance	110	0	0	0	1,269
Total DFID bilateral programme	382	284	259	219	1,269

[1] Negative amounts reflect accounting adjustments after closure of DFID's regional office in Bolivia.

Infant Mortality

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what indicators his Department uses to assess the effectiveness of its programmes in reducing the number of children who die before their fifth birthday. [19699]

Mr O'Brien: In order to assess the effectiveness of our programmes to improve maternal and newborn health, the Department for International Development (DFID) draws on national data and statistics, as well as data and statistics collected by DFID's partners, including agencies such as the GAVI Alliance and the Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria.

At the global level, DFID also draws on data from the United Nations Statistics Division's Millennium Development Goal (MDG) database, to assess progress against MDGs four and five, pertaining to maternal and child health.

These data are also being used to inform the ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid reviews.

Sri Lanka: Humanitarian Aid

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether full-time humanitarian experts funded by his Department are deployed in Sri Lanka. [19895]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) had a full-time humanitarian expert based at the British high commission in Colombo from May 2009 to July 2010. Since then, officials in the British high commission in Colombo have monitored the situation and are in regular contact with the Government of Sri Lanka, UN Country Team, the International Committee of the Red Cross, NGOs and donors.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with the International Organisation for Migration on the return of internally displaced people in Sri Lanka to their homes. [19891]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) has funded two humanitarian programmes with the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), both of which are now complete. Officials in the British high commission in Colombo continue to monitor the situation of the internally displaced people and are in regular communication with agencies based in Sri Lanka including the IOM.

With DFID funds, IOM was able to transport internally displaced people from camps back to resettlement areas and provide them with transitional shelter after they arrived.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 28 October 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Disclosure of Information: Homicide

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Attorney-General pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 643W, on disclosure of information: homicide, for what reason the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has not disclosed to the family of David Gray its contacts with the German authorities in the case of Daniel Ubani; and if he will direct the CPS to do so. [20143]

The Attorney-General: A CPS prosecutor informed Mr and Dr Gray, by letter of 2 April 2009, that steps were being taken to discover from the German authorities the events leading to Dr Ubani being dealt with under German criminal law.

The minutes of the meeting with the German authorities cannot be disclosed because Eurojust meetings are covered by a confidentiality agreement. This is not a matter therefore in which I could consider disclosure.

SCOTLAND

Cross Border Cooperation: Tourism

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what steps the Secretary of State is taking to enhance and increase cross-border economic co-operation between England and Scotland for tourism growth. [20186]

Michael Moore: I will be meeting the chairman of Visit Scotland in the very near future to discuss the importance of Scottish tourism, at both local and national level, and how it can lead economic growth and recovery.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Members: Childcare Vouchers

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, what assessment the House of Commons Commission made of recommendation 52 of the Speaker's Conference on parliamentary representation, to allow Members to take a proportion of their salary in the form of childcare vouchers prior to the transfer of responsibility for that matter to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. [20051]

Sir Stuart Bell: The Commission has made no assessment of recommendation 52 of the Speaker's Conference on parliamentary representation. It would not have been appropriate to make the proposed changes so close to the transfer of responsibility to IPSA.

Sittings

Simon Hart: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Harwich and North Essex (Mr Jenkin) of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 290-91W, on sittings, how many building contracts on the Parliamentary Estate were *(a)* cancelled and *(b)* deferred as a result of the September sitting; what the monetary value of each contract was; and what estimate has been made of the cost to the House Service of cancellation or deferral. [19657]

Sir Stuart Bell: No building contracts were cancelled as the reduced recess was planned for. Some projects which might have been included in the programme in a longer summer recess were not undertaken in the shorter recess, but only one, redecoration of the ceiling within the Shadow Cabinet Conference Room, is identifiable. This project was deferred but there was no cost to this deferral.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Council Housing: Waiting Lists

James Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to reduce the number of people on council housing waiting lists. [20043]

Andrew Stunell: The Government are considering measures to support councils developing local responses to managing their housing waiting lists more effectively and in ways which best reflect local circumstances, while continuing to ensure that the priority for social housing goes to those in greatest need.

We are also investing nearly £6.5 billion in the homes this country needs over the spending review period, with £4.5 billion to fund new affordable homes including £100 million to bring empty homes back into use as affordable housing.

Housing Benefit

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on the number of people declared homeless of the proposed changes to housing benefit entitlement in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement; [20175]

(2) what estimate he has made of the effect on local authority costs of fulfilling their statutory obligation to provide accommodation for families who have been made homeless of a reduction in housing benefit entitlements. [20176]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) has published estimates of the numbers of households that will be affected by the changes to local housing allowance rates in 2011-12. However, it is not possible to estimate the number of households that will move as a consequence of the changes.

A copy of the document 'Impacts of Housing Benefit Proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be Introduced in 2011-12' has been placed in the Library of the House.

Housing: St Albans

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has made a recent estimate of the *(a)* number and *(b)* monetary value of homes which could be built on undeveloped sites in St Albans which are held by registered social landlords in land banks. [19666]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government has not made a recent estimate of the number or monetary value of homes which could be built on undeveloped land in St Albans owned by registered social landlords.

Regeneration: Hull

Diana Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the future of his Department's housing regeneration schemes at Orchard Park and Bransholme North in Hull North constituency; and if he will make a statement. [19509]

Andrew Stunell: The Department's position on and funding support for its housing and other PFI projects will be considered and confirmed as quickly as possible following the spending review 2010 settlement.

Ministers will assess projects on a case-by-case basis for value for money and against other departmental priorities.

Tenants have voted to transfer the Bransholme North Estate to a housing association and subject to Ministers granting consent the transfer should take place later this year.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether the proposed social rent level based on 80% of the market level will be applied in circumstances in which a social housing tenancy is created by assignment. [19804]

Andrew Stunell: Where a social tenant assigns a social rent tenancy, for example by way of mutual exchange, the new tenant will continue to pay a social rent.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of payments in respect of which tenants will pay the new 80% of market level rents; how much rent income will be raised *(a)* gross and *(b)* net of housing benefit; and how much more rent income he expects to be raised than that raised from existing social housing rents net of housing benefit. [19806]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the new tenure shortly.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* estimated percentage and *(b)* absolute difference between average social housing rents and the proposed rents of 80% of market level is for each (i) year of the spending review period and (ii) local authority with housing responsibilities. [19807]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the implementation of new "affordable rent" tenure shortly.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether social housing tenants who move to a new property will pay rent at 80% of market level. [19808]

Grant Shapps: Existing tenants of local authorities and housing associations will retain their current tenancy and rent arrangements.

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of *(a)* the number of social tenants who will pay 80% of market rate rent and *(b)* the revenue raised through such rents (i) gross and (ii) net of housing benefit; and how these figures differ from current equivalents. [19814]

Grant Shapps: Existing tenants of local authorities and housing associations paying social rents will retain their current tenancy and rent arrangements.

We will publish more information on the new tenure shortly.

Trading Standards

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what arrangements he has made for funding of local authority trading standards officers to discharge their responsibilities in the event of an animal disease outbreak. [19710]

Mr Paice: I have been asked to reply.

Funding provided to local authorities via the rate support grant includes an element for handling emergencies and therefore there is no provision within the DEFRA budget to cover such costs arising within one or more local authorities in the event of a disease outbreak.

WALES

Prisons

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on the provision of prison places in north Wales. [20025]

Mr David Jones: Both my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Wales and I have recently discussed the provision of prison places in north Wales with ministerial colleagues and we remain supportive of a new prison being built there.

The Ministry of Justice is committed to publishing a Green Paper on rehabilitation and sentencing, and consulting on longer term plans for offender management.

Following this the coalition Government will be in a position to evaluate our long-term strategy for prison capacity.

We will continue to work closely with the Minister with responsibility for prisons, my hon. Friend the Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt) as decisions on the prison estate are made, to ensure that the implications for north Wales are fully taken into account.

Public Expenditure

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the *(a)* Welsh Assembly government, *(b)* Welsh Local Government Association and *(c)* Welsh Council for Voluntary Action on the effect of the comprehensive spending review on the block grant for Wales; and if she will make a statement. [20061]

Mrs Gillan: I have discussed the comprehensive spending review with a range of organisations, including the First Minister and other Welsh Assembly Government Ministers. I intend to continue a programme of meetings with organisations and individuals from across Wales to discuss key issues, including the comprehensive spending review outcome.

Over the course of the spending review period, the Welsh Assembly Government will have a 7.5% reduction in their resource budget, which is a smaller reduction than the UK average. This equates to an average cut of less than 2% each year.

It is now for the Welsh Assembly Government to decide how to manage these reductions reflecting their own policies and priorities.

PRIME MINISTER

Domestic Visits

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Prime Minister what estimate (1) he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* transport, *(b)* venue and accommodation, *(c)* printed materials, including backdrops, *(d)* security, *(e)* staffing, *(f)* filming and photography and *(g)* other costs of each Prime Minister Direct event; [13262]

(2) what vetting his Office undertakes of people attending Prime Minister Direct events; [13263]

(3) how many *(a)* civil servants and *(b)* special advisers accompanied him on each Prime Minister Direct event. [13264]

The Prime Minister: Since my appointment as Prime Minister I have held a series of public meetings which provide members of the public with an opportunity to raise local, regional or national issues with me directly.

The events have been arranged in accordance with ministerial and civil service guidelines. Costs have been minimised as far as possible. In each case these events were parts of wider visits to those areas. The audience is not selected by No. 10 and questions are chosen at random.

The cost of these events is as follows. The cost of any security provided by the police is a matter for the relevant police force.

	Cost (£)
Leeds—29 June 2010	3,603
Cornwall—9 July 2010	2,934
Luton—16 July 2010	2,743
Birmingham—3 August 2010	5,211
Brighton—5 August 2010	3,681
Manchester—10 August 2010	3,976

As with all visits I was accompanied by a small number of officials and special advisers as necessary.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Brazil: Fossil Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has had recent discussions with the government of Brazil on fossil fuel subsidy reform. [19885]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of fossil fuel subsidy reform was discussed with the Government of Brazil during the G20 in Toronto in June.

Conflict Pool

Yvette Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) what contribution his Department plans to make to the Conflict Pool in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15; [19685]

(2) how much his Department plans to spend on conflict prevention in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [19689]

Mr Hague *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* Funding for the tri-departmental Conflict Pool has been provided through the spending round separately from departmental expenditure limits. We expect to announce detailed allocations for Conflict Pool activity for 2011-12 in coming weeks. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not contributed additional funds to the Conflict Pool in 2010-11.

Funding for the Peacekeeping Budget and the Conflict Pool is provided for separately by the Treasury and does not come from departmental expenditure limits. As a result, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office does not usually contribute additional funds from its own departmental budget and has not done so in 2010-11.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how much his Department plans to allocate to *(a)* the Stabilisation Aid Fund, *(b)* the Conflict Prevention Pool, *(c)* the Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund, *(d)* the BBC World Service, excluding the BBC World Service Trust, *(e)* the BBC World Service Trust, *(f)* the Special Reserve, *(g)* the British Council and *(h)* the Security and Intelligence Fund for (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [20208]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has not yet set budgets for 2011-12 or beyond. Detailed allocations will be agreed during the coming weeks.

(a), (b), (c): On 1 April 2009 the Conflict Prevention Pool and the Stabilisation Aid Fund were merged to form the Conflict Pool, which is managed tri-departmentally by the Department for International Development (DFID), the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). At the same time, responsibility for discretionary peacekeeping costs also moved to the Conflict Pool.

Funding for the Conflict Pool has been provided through the spending round separately from departmental expenditure limits (DELs). The FCO has not contributed additional funds to the Conflict Pool in 2010-11. Priorities and allocations for 2011-12 will be determined in the coming weeks. We will continue to seek to maintain a range of activities in priority regions where the risk and impact of conflict is greatest.

(d) (g) Updated information on the 2010-11 budget allocations for the British Council and the BBC World Service will be published in the Winter Supplementary Estimates.

For the period 2011-15, the budget allocations (resource and capital funding) are as follows. From 2014-15, the BBC will fund the World Service from the licence fee.

	£ million (nominal, excluding depreciation)			
	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
BBC World Service	253	242	238	0
British Council	180	171	162	154

(e) The BBC World Service Trust is an independent charity funded by external grants and voluntary contributions. The FCO makes no specific allocation to it each year but may fund individual projects on an ad-hoc basis.

(f) The FCO makes no allocations to the 'Special Reserve' which is part of the Treasury Reserve.

(h) The FCO makes no allocation to the Single Intelligence Account.

European Union

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* his European counterparts, *(b)* the European Commission and *(c)* others on the cost and number of European Union public bodies; and if he will make a statement. [20138]

Mr Lidington: As my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister explained, at Prime Minister questions on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 309:

> 'The greatest priority for Britain should be to fight very hard to get the EU budget under control. It is completely unacceptable, at a time when we are making tough budget decisions here, that we are seeing spending rise consistently in the European Union. I think that is wrong and I shall be doing everything I can to try to sort out the budget for next year, and also to look at the future financing of the European Union, where we want to see strict controls.'

I raised these points most recently with my European counterparts during the General and Foreign Affairs Councils (GAC/FAC) on 25 October 2010 and will continue to do so at every opportunity.

The EU Commission is also already working on an Inter-Institutional review of European Agencies which will focus on ways to encourage efficiency, transparency and value for money in their day-to-day functioning. We are closely involved in the consultation process of this review.

Gibraltar: Spain

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what steps he plans to take to stop people crossing the border from Gibraltar to Spain being charged a toll by the La Linea authorities. [19625]

Mr Lidington: We have raised our concerns over the Mayor of La Linea's earlier proposed actions to impose a charge on traffic entering/leaving Gibraltar with the Spanish Government. It is for them to resolve this issue. Our priority is to keep the traffic flowing at the border. We believe that the Spanish Government shares this goal. They have made clear that EU and Spanish law will be fully respected and that they do not consider that the Mayor of La Linea's earlier proposed actions would be legal. We continue to keep in close touch with the Government of Gibraltar and to follow developments in La Linea.

Human Rights: Kosovo

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether he has made an assessment of the implications for his Department's policies of the opinion given by the International Court of Justice on Kosovo. [19978]

Mr Lidington: The UK Government welcome the International Court of Justice's (ICJ) Advisory Opinion confirming that Kosovo's Declaration of Independence did not violate international law. The legal process before the ICJ has come to its end. This should mean an end to debate about Kosovo's status. The UK Government remain firm in their conviction that Kosovo's status as a sovereign state, with its territory defined by its existing borders, is a positive force for stability in the western Balkans. The UK Government also welcome the consensus shown in the UN General Assembly in adopting, on 9 September, a resolution on the ICJ Opinion. The resolution acknowledged the content of the Opinion and welcomed the readiness of the European Union (EU) to facilitate a dialogue between Pristina and Belgrade to promote co-operation, achieve progress on the path towards the EU and improve the lives of the people.

The Government strongly support preparations for this dialogue, which will open a new phase in the relationship between Kosovo and Serbia as both move towards EU membership.

Gyumri Military Base

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Organisation for Security and Co-operation in

Europe (OSCE) counterparts the implications for the Russian Federation's role as co-chair of the OSCE Minsk Group of the extension of the Russian Federation's lease on the Gyumri military base. [19976]

Mr Lidington: The UK and Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe partners continue to support the work of the Minsk Group Co-chairs—Russia, France and the US—in pursuing a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. Russia, in its role as co-chair, hosted a summit between President Aliyev of Azerbaijan and President Sargsyan of Armenia on 27 October to help maintain dialogue between the two countries. There has been long-standing military co-operation between Armenia and the Russian Federation and the most recent agreement on the extension of the lease on Gyumri military base reflects that.

Security: EU

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will discuss with his Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) counterparts the *(a)* role of the EU and *(b)* composition of the OSCE Minsk Group. [19977]

Mr Lidington: I have had and will continue to have regular dialogue with a range of Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) partners about the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and the work of the Minsk Group. The composition of the group has not featured in those contacts and there has been no suggestion that it needs to be changed.

Like other OSCE partners, the UK continues to support the Minsk Group and its co-Chairs and encourages all parties to the conflict to work towards a lasting solution based on the principles of: refraining from the threat or use of force; territorial integrity; and people's right to self-determination. During my visit to Azerbaijan on 20-21 October, and in recent phone conversations with Armenian Foreign Minister Nalbandian, I explored the possibility of increased UK and EU activity to help support the peace process.

Transcaucasus: Diplomatic Service

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many people were employed by his Department's diplomatic mission in *(a)* Armenia, *(b)* Azerbaijan and *(c)* Georgia on the latest date for which figures are available. [18504]

Mr Lidington: At 1 October 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office employed approximately *(a)* 20 staff at the British embassy in Yerevan, Armenia; *(b)* 40 staff at the British embassy in Baku, Azerbaijan; *(c)* 50 staff at the British embassy in Tbilisi, Georgia. These figures include UK-based civil servants and staff engaged locally and have been rounded for operational and security reasons.

Turkey: Arrests

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations his Department has made to the government of Turkey on arrests of journalists. [19830]

Mr Lidington: Our embassy in Ankara regularly raises issues relating to freedom of expression—including the arrests of journalists—in the context of wider discussions on human rights with its Turkish counterparts. Freedom of expression remains a key area for reform in Turkey, and we expect the next EU Progress Report, due to be published on 10 November 2010, to address this issue again.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Criminal Records Bureau

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her policy is on the inclusion of harassment warnings in Enhanced Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if she will make a statement. [19116]

Lynne Featherstone: The Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) operates under part V of the Police Act 1997 (the 'Act'). The Act places a duty on the CRB (as the Secretary of State) to include details of all convictions, cautions, reprimands and warnings that are recorded on the police national computer (PNC) on a certificate. The CRB will not routinely include harassment warnings on a CRB certificate unless it forms part of a disposal of a conviction/caution that is recorded on the PNC.

Immigration Controls: France

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future of juxtaposed border controls in France; and if she will make a statement. [19855]

Damian Green: There are no plans to change our juxtaposed controls in northern Europe. My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and myself have both met with our French counterparts to discuss migration issues, including the juxtaposed controls and wider bilateral co-operation, and it is expected that agreement will soon be reached on the next phase of UK-France collaboration at the border controls in northern Europe.

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letter of 8 September 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton on Mr O. Uillah. [19861]

Damian Green: I apologise for the delay in replying to the letter of 8 September 2010. A reply should be provided to the right hon. Member within the next 10 days.

Police: Crime Prevention

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the relationship between the number of front-line police officers and levels of crime in neighbourhoods. [16416]

Nick Herbert: Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary recently reported that on average only 11% of forces' police manpower is visibly available to the public at any one time. What matters is how officers are deployed. Our aim is to reduce costs and bureaucracy to ensure that resources can be directed to the front line.

UK Border Agency

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of the UK Border Agency juxtaposed border controls in France in 2010-11. [19065]

Damian Green: The cost of the juxtaposed border controls including northern France ports and Paris in 2010-11 is £50.8 million.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the performance of local authorities in the delivery of the Carbon Emission Reduction Target scheme; and if he will make a statement. [19959]

Gregory Barker: The Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is an obligation placed on large energy suppliers to reduce carbon emissions from households in Great Britain and does not require local government to meet any specific function or target. Most obligated CERT suppliers do form partnerships with local authorities, social housing providers and others in helping deliver their schemes, capitalising on local knowledge, trusted brands and in some instances additional funding.

We are currently conducting an evaluation of the CERT scheme, which will gather evidence on the range and effectiveness of the delivery routes adopted by suppliers in delivering their CERT obligation.

Departmental Publications

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the recommendations relevant to his Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-being; if he will ensure that his Department take steps to promote well-being; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [20265]

Gregory Barker: In developing household energy efficiency and fuel poverty polices Government take account of the need to promote well being among vulnerable householders to ensure that they are able to benefit from the policies.

Energy: Carbon Emissions

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what role he expects local authorities to play in the roll-out of the Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [19956]

Gregory Barker: The Green Deal will provide the opportunity for all householders to take action to improve the energy efficiency of their homes and communities. We envisage that local authorities may want to play different roles in terms of the Green Deal, whether as Green Deal providers in their own right, or in forming partnerships with companies active in their areas. We are currently considering proposals from the Local Government Group around the contribution local government can make to the Green Deal.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association, *(b)* local authorities and *(c)* the Department for Communities and Local Government on the role of local authorities in the rolling out of the Green Deal. [19957]

Gregory Barker: My ministerial colleagues and I have discussed the Green Deal with the Local Government Association (LGA), local authorities and DCLG.

The Local Government Group (of which the LGA forms a part) has set out specific proposals from the local government side on how it might play a role in delivering the Green Deal. We will be discussing these proposals further in the coming months.

Fuel Poverty

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent steps his Department has taken to reduce fuel poverty; and if he will make a statement. [19954]

Gregory Barker: The Government are totally committed to helping those households that are in fuel poverty. We remain committed to doing all that is reasonably practicable to eradicate fuel poverty in all households in England by 2016.

The Government are permanently increasing cold weather payments to £25 to help around 4.2 million elderly and disabled households on low-incomes during periods of cold weather. The winter fuel payment remains unchanged.

We have recently extended the carbon emissions reduction target, introducing a greater focus on targeting energy efficiency measures at the most vulnerable households by introducing a Super Priority Group.

We intend to introduce mandated Social Price Support in April 2011, to replace the existing Voluntary Agreement with energy suppliers in order to provide direct energy bill support to a large number of vulnerable households.

Funding for the Warm Front scheme was announced in the spending review through to 2012-13. Going forward, the Green Deal is a key element of our policy to improve household energy efficiency. It will help protect people against price rises through greater energy saving, with special support for the most vulnerable. The new Energy Company Obligation will provide additional funding for the vulnerable and those in hard to treat homes who may need additional support.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will use his powers under the Energy Act 2010 to bring forward mandatory social price support. [20573]

Gregory Barker: Energy suppliers will be required from April 2011 to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households, through Social Price Support—with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15.

Government will implement Social Price Support by using the enabling powers in the Energy Act 2010 to make regulations requiring energy suppliers to participate in the Social Price Support scheme.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the number of households living in fuel poverty in *(a)* North West Durham constituency, *(b)* the North East and *(c)* the UK. [20858]

Gregory Barker: In 2006, the most recent year for which sub-regional figures are available, there were around 6,900 fuel-poor households in the North West Durham constituency.

In 2008, there were 236,000 fuel-poor households in the north east and 4.5 million fuel-poor households in the UK.

Renewable Energy

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department plans to equalise the rate of return on solar thermal energy with the rate of return on other renewable energy sources within the Renewable Heat Incentive. [20494]

Gregory Barker: As announced on 20 October 2010, as part of the spending review, the Renewable Heat Incentive (RHI) will go ahead in 2011. As part of the spending review process we have looked again at the RHI to target the scheme more effectively. We have more work to do to determine support levels. We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the scheme, including RHI tariffs and technologies supported, before the end of this year, and be open for business from June 2011.

Renewable Technology

Mike Crockart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department has made of the cost to his Department in 2011-12 of increasing feed-in tariff payments offered to individuals who installed renewable technology before 15 July 2009 to the rate available to those who did so after that date. [19147]

Charles Hendry: The primary objective of the Feed-in Tariffs (FITs) scheme is to incentivise additional small-scale, low carbon electricity generation. Extending FITs to sub-50kW installations made before 15 July 2009 could not deliver this objective.

Extending FITs to existing installations would increase the costs of the scheme, without the corresponding benefit of new installations. We do not think that this represents value for money, particularly in the current economic climate, and cannot therefore justify the additional cost to consumers, who ultimately pay for the scheme. Additionally, it would set a precedent for other incentive schemes such as the renewable heat incentive. Therefore, after careful consideration, we decided that the scheme as it relates to early adopters should remain unchanged.

The Department estimated that allowing all[1] such existing generators to claim FITs at full rate, without repaying grants would represent a discounted cost in the order of £5.8 million[2] for the period 2011-12. In addition to these costs there would be additional administrative costs to DECC, Ofgem and suppliers. In practice, these administrative costs would have increased, had such a policy also included a requirement to repay some or all of any grant.

[1] These figures are based on estimated numbers of sub-50kW installations prior to 15 July 2009 that received grants from the following programmes: Clear Skies, LCBP1, LCBP2 and the Major PV Demo Programme.

[2] Costs are presented in 2009 prices, discounted.

Notes:

1. Costs are net FITs subsidy costs, i.e. net of the value of exports to suppliers.
2. Admin costs of administering a higher number of FIT installations have not been included here.
3. Costs assume that existing generators would be paid FITs for the full installation lifetime.
4. Cost estimations should be caveated, as we do not know the precise number of existing generators and which technologies/scales they have invested in.

Tidal Power

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to assess the merits of establishing further tidal energy projects. [20684]

Gregory Barker: The coalition agreement states that the Government

> "will introduce measures to encourage marine energy",

underlining our commitment to building a successful wave and tidal energy sector in the UK as part of a diverse energy mix. In our "Annual Energy Statement" to Parliament we stated that,

> "The Government will support the development of marine energy in the UK by providing opportunity for deployment of marine energy devices alongside onshore infrastructure such as grid, industry and supply chain development, economic regeneration, skills and academic excellence."

Given the UK's rich tidal energy resource and expertise in this emerging sector we consider that tidal energy is likely to form a significant part of this deployment.

Wards in Gateshead

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 923W, what the equivalent figures are for those wards in Gateshead constituency which were formerly part of the Tyne Bridge constituency; and if he will make a statement. [19953]

Gregory Barker: Equivalent fuel poverty data are not available at ward level for 2006.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Asbestos

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what powers local authorities have to *(a)* identify, *(b)* assess, *(c)* manage and *(d)* dispose of asbestos sheeting on land where the ownership is unknown or in dispute; and if she will make a statement. [19184]

Richard Benyon: Local authorities have powers under section 59 (7) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 to remove any controlled waste which has been deposited without authorisation in order to prevent pollution or harm to human health, including from land which has no occupier.

Bees

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many beekeepers have alerted the National Bee Unit to bee health problems in each of the last five years. [18824]

Mr Paice: The number of inspections in each of the last five years carried out by the Food and Environment Research Agency's National Bee Unit's Bee Inspectors as a result of being contacted by beekeepers are set out in the table. As the number of beekeepers is increasing, and they are becoming more aware of disease risks, we would expect the number of contacts to rise.

	Inspections
2006	611
2007	985
2008	1,095
2009	1,429
2010	[1]1,341

[1] Partial year

Common Agricultural Policy

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what priorities she has set for her negotiations in the Council of Ministers on the proposed reform of the Common Agricultural Policy; and if she will make a statement. [19204]

Mr Paice: The UK is committed to ambitious reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) that delivers good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment. A future CAP must enable a sustainable, thriving and competitive EU agriculture and food sector that is able to rise to the challenges and opportunities of the future. Negotiations on CAP will take place in the context of a Communication which we expect to be published by the Commission in November.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many officials in her Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18757]

Richard Benyon: The tables show the number of staff subject to disciplinary and performance action in each of the last six years. Data prior to 2005-06 are not easily available and to obtain this information would be at a disproportionate cost.

The tables show the number of staff subject to disciplinary or performance action and whether they were transferred or dismissed as a result of these actions. If staff are removed from post then this would result in either their transfer or dismissal and these data are therefore included in those categories.

The following information is provided for Core DEFRA and its Executive Agencies:

Table 1: Disciplinary action

	Number of staff subject to disciplinary action	*Transferred to another post*[1]	*Dismissed*
2010-11	25	1	3
2009-10	69	1	6
2008-09	58	4	5
2007-08	43	2	12
2006-07	50	0	20
2005-06	34	1	11

[1] Includes DEFRA and its Agencies except Rural Payments Agency (RPA) who could provide the data only at disproportionate cost.

Table 2: Performance action

	Number of staff subject to performance action	*Transferred to another post*[1]	*Dismissed*
2010-11	13	3	2
2009-10	33	1	5
2008-09	35	7	5
2007-08	38	2	9
2006-07	30	1	10
2005-06	22	1	9

[1] Includes DEFRA and its Agencies except RPA who could provide the data only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Publications

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of recommendations relevant to her Department's policy responsibilities contained in the Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-being; if she will ensure that her Department takes steps to promote well-being; if she will ensure that her Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if she will make a statement. [20281]

Richard Benyon: My Department has played a leading role in developing our understanding of the relationship between departmental policies and well-being and has noted the policy recommendations made in the Government Office for Science's Foresight report on Mental Capacity and Well-being.

Departmental statisticians and social researchers have developed and produced well-being indicators and analyses over the last five years as part of the national set of sustainable development indicators. They are now working closely with the Office for National Statistics and Cabinet Office, who are developing measures of societal well-being.

Economists and social researchers from DEFRA are taking a lead role in the cross-government Social Impacts Task Force (co-chaired by DEFRA's chief economist). The taskforce's remit includes the development of guidance to help Departments assess social impacts of government policies; and highlighting the importance of social impacts and well-being indicators in cost benefit analysis and impact assessment of policies.

Environment Agency: Apprentices

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many apprentices were in post at the Environment Agency on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such apprentices recruited in the last 12 months *(a)* were previously apprentices, *(b)* had been long-term unemployed and *(c)* are graduates. [20269]

Richard Benyon: There is one apprentice in post at the Environment Agency as of 26 October 2010. This four-year apprenticeship is due to end shortly.

The Environment Agency recruited one other apprentice in the last 12 months. The individual has now left the organisation without completing the apprenticeship. They were not a previous apprentice, long-term unemployed or a graduate.

Fisheries

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what the total mackerel catch was in respect of *(a)* UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland fisheries in each of the last five years. [20183]

Richard Benyon: The total mackerel catch made by UK and Northern Ireland vessels in the years 2005 to 2009 (the last year for which final official statistics are available) is set out in the following table:

	Catch (tonnes live weight)				
	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
United Kingdom	155,443	103,050	133,904	128,246	172,304
Of which:					
Northern Ireland	9,068	9,380	11,004	6,038	3,341

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the contribution of the mackerel catch to the fishing industry. [20184]

Richard Benyon: Mackerel is currently the most valuable species in terms of catches to the UK fishing industry. According to official statistics for 2009 (the latest year for which final official statistics are available), UK vessels landed some 172,300 tonnes of mackerel with a value of £153 million. This compares to total landings by UK vessels of all species in 2009 of 580,600 tonnes with a value of £674 million.

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had at EU level on the mackerel quota claimed by Greenland. [20185]

Richard Benyon: Recent talks on the management of the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock have not included Greenland. The negotiations have been between the EU, Norway, the Faroe Islands and Iceland as the coastal states, and the Russian Federation has attended as an observer. We are not aware of any claim by Greenland on the North-East Atlantic mackerel stock.

Flood Control

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take to implement the proposed savings of 15% in her Department's flood defences procurement strategy. [19783]

Richard Benyon: In real terms, 15% efficiency savings in flood and coastal risk management procurement is equivalent to delivering an average of 2% more in terms of outcomes, each and every year, between now and 2015. The Environment Agency is developing a new procurement strategy which will set out how these savings will be achieved. The Environment Agency's main contractual frameworks are due for renewal, and these present an opportunity to commission segments of capital and asset maintenance work to clearly defined service levels and outcomes.

Foxes

Nicky Morgan: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent discussions she has had with ministerial colleagues on control of urban foxes by local authorities in residential areas. [19902]

Richard Benyon: Neither I nor the Secretary of State have had any recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on control of urban foxes by local authorities in residential areas.

National England Office

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many staff in each Natural England office are designated as *(a)* managers and *(b)* field workers. [20140]

Richard Benyon: Natural England does not designate two categories of its staff, but currently has 304 managers and 2,296 other staff across its offices and other sites.

Nature Conservation: Convictions

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were *(a)* proceeded against and *(b)* convicted of an offence under the provisions of the (i) Badgers Act 1991, (ii) Deer Act 1991, (iii) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (iv) Hunting Act 2004 in 2009; and if she will make a statement. [19876]

Richard Benyon: The latest figures for the number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the provisions of the (i) Badgers Act 1991, (ii) Deer Act 1991, (iii) Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and (iv) Hunting Act 2004 in England and Wales in 2009 are given in the following table.

Number of persons proceeded against at magistrates courts and found guilty at all courts for offences under the Badgers Act 1991, the Deer Act 1991, the Wild Mammals Protection Act 1996 and the Hunting Act 2004 in England and Wales in 2009[1,2]

Statute	*Offence description*	*Proceeded against*	*Found guilty*
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 (except Sec. 13)	Offences of cruelty to badgers and special protection for badgers and their setts.	44	26
Protection of Badgers Act 1992 Sec. 13	Failing to give up a dog for destruction or having custody of a dog while disqualified	6	4
Deer Act 1991	Killing or injuring deer by shooting, trap, snares etc.	3	2
Wild Mammals (Protection) Act 1996	Offences under this Act	8	5
Hunting Act 2004	Offences under this Act	90	57
Total		151	94

[1] The figures given in the table relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[2] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that this data has been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when the data is used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services—Ministry of Justice

Public Expenditure

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs on what occasions she attended the Public Expenditure Committee to discuss the 2010 Spending Review. [20147]

Richard Benyon: Information relating to the proceedings of Cabinet Committees, including when and how often they meet, is generally not disclosed as to do so could harm the frankness and candour of internal discussion.

Rural Development Programmes

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs which body will determine applications for funding for rural development programmes between 2010 and 2013; and if she will make a statement. [19660]

Mr Paice: The bodies which currently manage delivery of the Rural Development Programme for England (RDPE) will continue to do so for the remainder of the programme period, until the end of 2013, with the exception of the regional development agencies (RDAs), which will be abolished by March 2012.

The Government are working to ensure a smooth transition to new delivery arrangements for the socio-economic elements of RDPE. We expect to be able to provide details shortly.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Apprentices

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many apprentices were in post at *(a)* Arts Council England and *(b)* Sport England on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such apprentices recruited in the last 12 months (i) were previously apprentices, (ii) had been long-term unemployed and (iii) are graduates. [20272]

John Penrose: The Department does not collate this information.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of both bodies to respond directly to the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire (Stephen Barclay).

Copies of the responses will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Betting

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent representations he has received on the maximum stake for a category B2 fixed odds betting terminal; and whether he plans to review that maximum level. [20597]

John Penrose: I have received no recent representations about the maximum stake for category B2 fixed odds betting terminals.

There are no plans at present to review the maximum level.

Betting: Licensing

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 27WS, on public bodies reform, how many staff or full-time equivalents will monitor the licensing of betting shops in the proposed body to be created by merging the National Lottery Commission and the Gambling Commission. [20886]

John Penrose: Local licensing authorities, rather than the Gambling Commission, have responsibility for licensing and monitoring betting premises under the Gambling Act 2005.

Broadband

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the Spending Review 2010, Cm 7942, what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Wales, *(b)* Scotland, *(c)* England and *(d)* Northern Ireland who will obtain access to broadband services as a result of the Government's proposed expenditure on the broadband network. [19658]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Government are committed to ensuring the UK has the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015, including the delivery of superfast broadband to rural and remote areas at the same time as in more populated areas. Households in Wales, Scotland, England and Northern Ireland will all benefit from the Government's support for superfast broadband investment; the exact number has yet to be determined.

Capital Investment: Greater London and North West

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years. [19129]

John Penrose: Most of the Department's capital funds are distributed via its arm's length bodies. A summary of the countywide analysis of capital spend for the entire sector can be found in the Departmental Resource Accounts (HC 222, 22 July 2010). Data for 2008-09 is the latest available.

The Department[1] itself incurs a small amount of capital expenditure on both its own administration (e.g. IT systems, office accommodation) and on a limited number of directly funded programmes such as the listed places of worship scheme, free swimming (which commenced in 2008-09) and the Department's contribution to Wolfson Grants, which are summarised in the table. The expenditure per head uses Office of National Statistics mid-year population estimates.

£

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[2]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total DCMS capital spend (including that via arm's length bodies)	157,158,000	188,581,000	325,240,000	624,203,000	905,446,000
Of which:					
DCMS[1] capital spend					
London	5,584,650.00	8,542,789.50	13,794,500.00	6,273,500.00	6,447,175.00
North West	898,500.00	1,347,390.50	235,000.00	200,000.00	1,860,176.00
Spend per head					
London	0.75	1.14	1.83	0.83	0.85
North West	0.13	0.20	0.03	0.03	0.27

[1] Includes the Royal Parks and the Government Art Collection.

[2] These figures include early allocations following the successful Olympic bid.

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [19130]

John Penrose: Most of the Department's capital funds are distributed via its arm's length bodies. A summary of the countywide analysis of capital spend for the entire sector can be found in the departmental resource accounts (HC 222, 22 July 2010). Data for 2008-09 are the latest available.

The Department[1] itself incurs a small amount of capital expenditure on both its own administration (eg IT systems, office accommodation) and on a limited number of directly funded programmes such as the Listed Places of Worship scheme, Free Swimming (2008-09) and the Department's contribution to Wolfson grants, which are summarised in the table.

	2004-05	*2005-06*	*2006-07*[2]	*2007-08*	*2008-09*
Total DCMS capital spend[3] (£)	157,158,000	188,581,000	325,240,000	624,203,000	905,446,000
Of which:					
London (£)	5,584,650	8,542,790	13,794,500	6,273,500	6,447,175
DCMS[1] capital spend					
North West (£)	898,500	1,347,391	235,000	200,000	1,860,176
Proportion of spend					
London (percentage)	36	46	90	82	41
North West (percentage)	6	7	2	3	12

[1] Includes the Royal Parks and the Government art collection.

[2] These figures include early allocations following the successful Olympic bid.

[3] Including that via arm's length bodies

Departmental Contracts

Andrew Bingham: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of quality management statements in assisting with contract decisions by his Department; and what assessment he has made of the effects on the prospects for small businesses of winning contracts of such statements. [19018]

John Penrose: When conducting procurement exercises the Department will normally make some assessment of quality management statements in the selection of suppliers as suitable bidders. However, this assessment would only form a small part of the overall assessment as, in our opinion, quality management statements do not impact on the likely success of small and medium enterprises (SMEs) winning business. On average over the last three years approximately 30% of the Department's business has gone to SMEs.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the BBC Trust on the effect on the BBC of the proposed change to its funding under the Comprehensive Spending Review. [20142]

Mr Vaizey: The BBC Trust has been fully and productively engaged in discussions with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on all changes to BBC funding proposed under the licence fee settlement.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18416]

John Penrose: All official travel is undertaken in accordance with the rules set out in the Department's travel and subsistence guidance and is consistent with the Civil Service Management Code.

Overseas travel and subsistence below ministerial level is not recorded by grade. To disaggregate overseas expenditure by grade would incur disproportionate costs as this information is not held on our accounting system.

The Department does publish details of expenses and hospitality of senior officials and above on our website:

http://www.transparency.culture.gov.uk/category/financial/

which will include details of individual travel costs, under "Business Costs".

The table shows total overseas T and S expenditure by officials for the financial year 2009-10 irrespective of grade.

Category	£
Officials travelling overseas	
2009-10	109,764.73
Officials accompanying Ministers	
2009-10	36,953.15
Total 2009-10	146,717.88

Gambling: Internet

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* occasional and *(b)* frequent or habitual online gamblers in each of the last five years; [20133]

(2) what definition of *(a)* occasional and *(b)* habitual gambling his Department uses. [20134]

John Penrose: This Department and the Gambling Commission do not use the terms "Frequent" or "habitual" to describe the gambling habits of individuals and do not record the information requested on that basis.

The British Gambling Prevalence Survey 2007, commissioned by the Gambling Commission, was undertaken better to understand the nature and scale of gambling in Great Britain. Data on trends of online gambling can therefore be found in the survey on the Gambling Commission's website at:

http://www.gamblingcommission.gov.uk/PDF/Britsh%20Gambling%20Prevalence%20Survey%202007%20-%20Sept%202007.pdf

The third nationally representative survey of participation in gambling and the prevalence of problem gambling in Great Britain will be published in February 2011.

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (1) how many new licences have been granted in the last five years for *(a)* non-remote general betting (standard), *(b)* non-remote general betting (limited), *(c)* non-remote betting intermediary, *(d)* non-remote pool betting, *(e)* remote general betting (standard), *(f)* remote betting (limited), *(g)* remote betting intermediary, *(h)* remote betting intermediary (trading rooms) and *(i)* remote betting pools; [20135]

(2) how many online gambling sites are based in the UK; [20136]

(3) how many online gambling sites are based in *(a)* white-listed countries and *(b)* countries listed in the Gambling Act 2005 which advertise in the UK. [20137]

John Penrose: The Department does not collate this information.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of the Gambling Commission to write to the hon. Member for Hampshire East (Damian Hinds).

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

National Lottery etc. Act 1993

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what criteria are applied to determine the level and nature of payments made by the Secretary of State under Section 31 of the National Lottery etc. Act 1993. [20165]

John Penrose: The Secretary of State, with approval of the Treasury, makes payments under section 31 of the National Lottery etc. Act 1993 ("the Act") for defraying certain expenses:

(i) those incurred or to be incurred by him in exercising his functions;

(ii) those expenses incurred by the NLC; and

(iii) those incurred or to be incurred by the National Debt Commissioners in making investments under section 32 of the 1993 Act.

Therefore the criteria that apply for meeting expenses under section 31 are whether the expense can be properly attributable to the exercise of functions as set out in section 32 of the 1993 Act.

S4C: Wales

Hywel Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport on what date his Department informed the *(a)* Welsh Assembly government, *(b)* Welsh Assembly Minister for Heritage, *(c)* board of S4C, *(d)* Secretary of State for Wales and *(e)* BBC of his decision about the future of S4C. [19898]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* The Secretary of State or officials informed all the parties listed in the days leading up to, or at the time of, the spending review and licence fee settlement announcements.

Television: Licensing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will revise television licensing guidelines to allow women's refuges and shelters to hold one television licence per establishment. [20276]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have no plans to extend the special licence for hotels and hospitality areas to include women's refuges. There are many different vulnerable groups living in temporary accommodation and it would be difficult to justify providing concessions for one of these groups but not for any of the others.

Tourism: Cumbria

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of tourists who visited Cumbria in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009; and what estimate he has made of the average expenditure per head by tourists visiting Cumbria in each such year. [19355]

John Penrose: The number of holiday visits to Cumbria and total spend by visitors from outside the United Kingdom for 2008 and 2009 are as set out in the table:

	Purpose	*2008*	*2009*
Visits (Thousand)	Holiday	114	85
Spend (£ million)	Holiday	34	24

Source:
VisitBritain

The number of holiday visits taken in Cumbria by United Kingdom residents and total spend for the years 2006 to 2009 are as set out in the table:

	2006-09
Domestic visits (Thousand)	3,671
Domestic spend (£ million)	718

Source:
The United Kingdom Tourism Survey

CABINET OFFICE

Charity Commission: Apprentices

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many apprentices were in post at the Charity Commission on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such apprentices recruited in the last 12 months *(a)* were previously apprentices, *(b)* had been long-term unemployed and *(c)* are graduates. [20271]

Mr Hurd: This is a matter for the Charity Commission. I have, therefore, asked the chief executive of the commission to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger CBE:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on how many apprentices were in post at the Charity Commission on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such apprentices recruited in the last 12 months (a) were previously apprentices, (b) had been long-term unemployed and (c) are graduates.

The Charity Commission does not employ any apprentices.

I hope this is helpful.

Charity Commission: Finance

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office if he will take steps to ensure proposed reductions in his Department's budget do not adversely affect the Charity Commission's ability to *(a)* regulate, *(b)* investigate allegations of fraud, *(c)* investigate allegations of diverting funds to international terrorist organisations and *(d)* enforce existing law in the charitable sector. [19692]

Mr Hurd: The Charity Commission is an independent non-ministerial Government Department and as such negotiates its own financial settlement direct with HM Treasury. Any reductions in the Cabinet Office budget therefore have no bearing on the commission's ability to carry out its statutory duties.

Public Expenditure

Jim Dobbin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the Charity Commission's ability to discharge its statutory duties to *(a)* regulate and *(b)* support the charitable sector. [19691]

Mr Hurd: As a non-ministerial department, the Charity Commission negotiates its spending review settlement direct with HM Treasury. I have, therefore, asked the chief executive of the commission to reply.

Letter from Sam Younger, dated 25 October 2010:

As the Chief Executive of the Charity Commission, I have been asked to respond to your written Parliamentary Question on what assessment has been made of the effect of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the Charity Commission's ability to discharge its statutory duties to (a) regulate and (b) support the charitable sector (19691).

As an independent non-Ministerial Department, the Charity Commission negotiates its Spending Review Settlement directly with HM Treasury. The Charity Commission's settlement amounts to a 33% reduction in its budget in real terms by 2015.

In order to make these savings, the Commission will need to make significant changes to the way in which it engages with charities and the public, the services it offers, and the scope and shape of its regulatory activity. This will not be easy but the Commission is determined to continue to develop as an innovative, confident and flexible modern regulator within the resources Treasury has made available.

The Commission will manage these changes by:

(i) beginning a comprehensive review of its strategy and operating principles, to agree the key priorities for the Commission's work over the next four years and beyond; and

(ii) continuing to reduce the costs of regulation, for example moving more of its services to charities online, and further reducing its back office administration costs.

The Commission anticipates that it will have to reduce staff numbers by about 140 full-time posts as a result of this settlement. Final decisions on the necessary restructuring of the Commission will follow its strategic review, which is intended to conclude in April 2011.

The Commission will begin a public consultation on its strategic review in the next few days, seeking views from a range of stakeholders within and beyond the charity sector. A review of the Charities Act 2006, which sets the Commission's statutory objectives, functions and duties, is expected in 2011 and this will provide an opportunity to review the legislative framework.

HEALTH

Care Homes: Fees

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) which local authorities have reclaimed money from people for deliberately depriving themselves of assets to avoid paying care home fees under the provisions of the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 in each year since 2000-01; [19815]

(2) how many people have repaid money to their local authority under the provisions of the National Assistance (Assessment of Resources) Regulations 1992 in each year since 2000-01. [19816]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect information about how many local authorities have made use of these provisions, or how many people have had to pay money to a local authority because of the use of these provisions. While the Department issues regulations and guidance on charging, the responsibility for assessing how much an individual can afford to pay for residential care rests with the local authority arranging the care.

Dental Services

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will have responsibility for commissioning dental care in *(a)* care homes and *(b)* prisons under the proposals in his Department's White Paper on Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. [19593]

Mr Simon Burns: Under the proposals set out in the White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", the NHS Commissioning Board would, subject to the outcome of consultation, be responsible for commissioning primary care dental services. Further details will be available at the introduction of the Health Bill into Parliament, which will follow later this year.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether NHS dental care will become part of the medical model, as recommended by Lord Darzi. [19746]

Mr Simon Burns: Building on Lord Darzi's work, the Government intend to establish improvement in quality and health care outcomes as the primary purpose of all national health service-funded care. This includes dentistry.

Under the proposals set out in the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', following consultation and piloting, a new dentistry contract would be introduced, with a focus on improving quality, achieving good dental health and increasing access to NHS dentistry, and an additional focus on the oral health of schoolchildren.

Lord Darzi specifically recommended that the Care Quality Commission (CQC) should regulate safety and quality for dental as well as general practitioner (GP) practices. The Government support this and the CQC is in the process of establishing the regulatory arrangements, first for dental and then for GP practices.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future levels of funding for NHS dentistry *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in areas where there is under-provision of NHS dental services; and if he will make a statement. [19747]

Mr Simon Burns: Primary care trust (PCT) funding allocations for primary dental care services will be announced in December 2010. The Government's White Paper "Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS", published on 12 July 2010, proposes that in future the responsibility for apportioning funding to, and the commissioning of, dental services will be a matter for an independent and accountable NHS Commissioning Board.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many applications for the Apple iPhone his Department has commissioned each company to create; and at what cost to the public purse those applications were created. [19459]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department, through NHS Choices, has commissioned three iPhone applications.

The first is a package of alcohol tools, including an iPhone application. The tools help individuals calculate the alcohol units in drinks, keeps a drinks diary and provides tailored messages about levels of drinking in order to support behavioural change. The package was launched on 1 December 2009. The iPhone application cost £10,000.

The second is the NHS 'Quit Smoking' application, which provides hints and tips to manage cravings, keeps a running tally on how much money quitters have saved since they stopped smoking, tracks the number of days, hours and minutes since quitting and includes a direct link to the stop smoking helpline. The application was launched on 11 March 2010 and cost £10,000.

The third is the World Cup/Football Fan Fitness Application. This is an online, Facebook and iPhone application providing a fitness assessment tool that aims to encourage adults to think about their health and become more physically active. The application was launched on 9 June 2010 to coincide with the World Cup and continues through the current football season. The iPhone Application element cost £9,000.

Health Services: Greater London

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to primary care trusts in London, Islington, Haringey, Barnet and Enfield on joint working and commissioning of health services; and if he will make a statement. [19574]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Operating Framework sets out for national health service commissioners what the national priorities are and where they have discretion in terms of local commissioning. It advises that joint working should happen where appropriate; however this should be determined by the local NHS.

Hospitals: Food

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the *(a)* effects of the Better Hospital Food Panel on the level of malnutrition among patients in hospitals and *(b)* weekly effects on that level of the disbanding of that committee. [19773]

Mr Simon Burns: The Better Hospital Food Programme (BHF) programme, overseen by the Better Hospital Food Panel, was introduced following the publication of the NHS Plan in 2000. It took forward a number of initiatives, including:

the introduction of 24-hour catering services;

the introduction of housekeepers in half of all hospitals;

the requirement for dieticians to advise on the nutritional quality of hospital food; and

the introduction of unannounced inspections (Patient Environment Action Team).

The programme aimed primarily at improving patient experience, through improving the quality and availability of food. Measures taken included the introduction of protected mealtimes, greater access to snacks and the launch of an NHS Recipe Book—which includes material on 'soft meals' for the many patients who find chewing and swallowing difficult. Measures such as this would be expected to have a knock-on effect on nutritional status, but this was not formally measured. Details of clinical malnutrition are collected via the Hospital Episode Statistics process and these are routinely provided on an annual basis.

Central initiatives can only go so far in supporting local improvement. The decision to close the BHF programme was taken in April 2006. Funding previously allocated centrally was passed directly to the national health service—to allow it to develop services in the way that is appropriate for local organisations.

Work on implementation of hospital food policy was moved to the National Patient Safety Agency in 2005-06. The resources developed as part of the programme are still available via the Hospital Caterers' Association website. Their contribution to ongoing improvement therefore remains, even though the programme has closed.

Mental Health

Andrew Bridgen: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to establish a joint commissioning board for mental health. [19039]

Paul Burstow: There is no plan to establish a joint commissioning board for commissioning mental health services at a national level. The NHS Commissioning Board will be responsible for ensuring that appropriate services are commissioned for the whole population and local arrangements will be for local determination.

Our proposals for commissioning give general practitioner consortia responsibility for commissioning the majority of national health service services, supported and held to account by an independent NHS Commissioning Board, and Health and Wellbeing Boards. Mental health services will form an integral part of the range of services commissioned, informed by the output of the local joint strategic needs assessment process led by local authorities.

Flexibilities in the NHS Act 2006 can support and enhance opportunities for integrated working, particularly section 75, which supports a range of partnership arrangements where they can demonstrate this will lead to improvements for services.

Methadone

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* people receiving regular methadone prescriptions and *(b)* prescriptions for methadone issued by each primary care trust. [20267]

Anne Milton: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for opioid dependence in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs, such as buprenorphine, which are also recommended by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence. The number of adults receiving substitute prescribing was 153,632 in 2009-10.

The following table gives the number of items of methadone prescribed in each primary care trust in England, in the financial year 2009-10.

Methadone is used as an opioid analgesic, a treatment in opioid dependence and as a cough suppressant. Prescriptions for all uses of methadone are included in the figures given.

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*Items (thousand)*
PCT Ashton, Leigh and Wigan	21.2
PCT Barking and Dagenham	1.1
PCT Barnet	3.1
PCT Barnsley	21.4
PCT Bassetlaw	10.3
PCT Bath and North East Somerset	11.9
PCT Bedfordshire	16.4
PCT Berkshire East	8.1
PCT Berkshire West	17.4
PCT Bexley Care Trust	1.0

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*Items (thousand)*
PCT Birmingham East and North	14.4
PCT Blackburn with Darwen CTP	15.2
PCT Blackpool	25.7
PCT Bolton	24.5
PCT Bournemouth and Poole Teaching	23.8
PCT Bradford and Airedale Teaching	53.9
PCT Brent Teaching	5.3
PCT Brighton and Hove City	15.2
PCT Bristol	57.2
PCT Bromley	1.7
PCT Buckinghamshire	3.8
PCT Bury	9.4
PCT Calderdale	14.1
PCT Cambridgeshire	24.9
PCT Camden	3.8
PCT Central and Eastern Cheshire	12.3
PCT Central Lancashire	24.3
PCT City and Hackney Teaching	16.4
PCT Cornwall and Isles of Scilly	8.8
PCT County Durham	27.6
PCT Coventry Teaching	35.3
PCT Croydon	2.0
PCT Cumbria Teaching	27.3
PCT Darlington	9.0
PCT Derby City	23.9
PCT Derbyshire County	36.4
PCT Devon	6.3
PCT Doncaster	33.4
PCT Dorset	11.4
PCT Dudley	17.3
PCT Ealing	10.2
PCT East and North Hertfordshire	2.5
PCT East Lancashire Teaching	32.0
PCT East Riding of Yorkshire	10.6
PCT East Sussex Downs and Weald	13.5
PCT Eastern and Coastal Kent	28.7
PCT Enfield	4.0
PCT Gateshead	22.9
PCT Gloucestershire	7.9
PCT Great Yarmouth and Waveney	5.3
PCT Greenwich Teaching	3.0
PCT Halton and St Helens	27.8
PCT Hammersmith and Fulham	5.7
PCT Hampshire	27.4
PCT Haringey Teaching	2.5
PCT Harrow	4.0
PCT Hartlepool	18.7
PCT Hastings and Rother	11.2
PCT Havering	0.7
PCT Heart of Birmingham	53.6
PCT Herefordshire	11.9
PCT Heywood, Middleton and Rochdale	18.8
PCT Hillingdon	2.6
PCT Hounslow	0.8
PCT Hull Teaching	51.5
PCT Isle of Wight NHS	6.7
PCT Islington	11.7
PCT Kensington and Chelsea	4.4
PCT Kingston	1.6
PCT Kirklees	32.8
PCT Knowsley	13.7
PCT Lambeth	11.7
PCT Leeds	57.5
PCT Leicester City	26.8
PCT Leicestershire County and Rutland	25.2
PCT Lewisham	7.8
PCT Lincolnshire	14.2
PCT Liverpool	37.6
PCT Luton	14.1
PCT Manchester	54.6
PCT Medway	11.9
PCT Mid Essex	14.3
PCT Middlesbrough	34.9
PCT Milton Keynes	0.4
PCT Newcastle	32.3
PCT Newham	8.5
PCT Norfolk	34.9
PCT North East Essex	5.8
PCT North East Lincolnshire Care Trust Plus	19.7
PCT North Lancashire Teaching	19.5
PCT North Lincolnshire	11.5
PCT North Somerset	9.9
PCT North Staffordshire	8.2
PCT North Tyneside	7.2
PCT North Yorkshire and York	36.7
PCT Northamptonshire Teaching	14.7
PCT Northumberland Care Trust	18.3
PCT Nottingham City	9.3
PCT Nottinghamshire County Teaching	26.9
PCT Oldham	14.3
PCT Oxfordshire	31.2
PCT Peterborough	16.3
PCT Plymouth Teaching	23.0
PCT Portsmouth City Teaching	20.1
PCT Redbridge	0.7
PCT Redcar and Cleveland	6.2
PCT Richmond and Twickenham	2.5
PCT Rotherham	29.8
PCT Salford	15.3
PCT Sandwell	4.3
PCT Sefton	24.1
PCT Sheffield	46.1
PCT Shropshire County	8.1
PCT Solihull Care Trust	8.3
PCT Somerset	22.7
PCT South Birmingham	27.2
PCT South East Essex	7.8
PCT South Gloucestershire	6.6
PCT South Staffordshire	22.7
PCT South Tyneside	7.8
PCT South West Essex	9.9
PCT Southampton City	4.0
PCT Southwark	8.2
PCT Stockport	12.4
PCT Stockton-on-Tees Teaching	21.5
PCT Stoke on Trent	27.5
PCT Suffolk	5.6
PCT Sunderland Teaching	12.4
PCT Surrey	17.7
PCT Sutton and Merton	0.5
PCT Swindon	13.7
PCT Tameside and Glossop	4.5

Primary care trust (PCT) name	*Items (thousand)*
PCT Telford and Wrekin	2.8
PCT Torbay Care Trust	6.2
PCT Tower Hamlets	17.9
PCT Trafford	9.5
PCT Wakefield District	33.3
PCT Walsall Teaching	10.3
PCT Waltham Forest	0.8
PCT Wandsworth Teaching	2.2
PCT Warrington	8.0
PCT Warwickshire	2.4
PCT West Essex	4.9
PCT West Hertfordshire	5.6
PCT West Kent	11.4
PCT West Sussex	20.5
PCT Western Cheshire	26.2
PCT Westminster	14.1
PCT Wiltshire	13.6
PCT Wirral	47.7
PCT Wolverhampton City	6.7
PCT Worcestershire	14.3
Unidentified prescribing	13.4
England total	2,476.1

NHS

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has issued guidance to local authorities on the implications for them of the proposals in his Department's White Paper on Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS. [19592]

Paul Burstow: The Department's consultation on the Government's White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" closed on the 5 October, and the consultation on associated proposals for Increasing Democratic Legitimacy in Health, Transparency in Outcomes: A Framework, Commissioning for Patients and Regulating Healthcare Providers finished on 11 October. The Department is currently considering the responses to the consultations. No formal guidance has been issued to local authorities, although both Ministers and officials have been in discussions with representatives of local government about the proposals.

Palliative Care

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made on the development of a structured support service for people being treated for long-term conditions. [19624]

Paul Burstow: The national health service long-term conditions model focuses on supporting people to make decisions about how their care can be managed. It encourages a personalised approach offering one to one case management to those with the most complex needs, personalised care planning to fully involve people in decisions about their care and supporting people to self care.

Data from the GP Patient Survey suggest that around 80% of people with a long-term condition have had a care planning discussion and of those around 70% say their care has improved as a result of the discussion. The survey also suggests that around 80% of people with a long-term condition feel supported to be independent and in control of their condition.

Pharmacy

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the development of community pharmacy in *(a)* deprived and *(b)* other areas. [19622]

Mr Simon Burns: The development of community pharmacy is linked to the requirement for each primary care trust (PCT) to assess the pharmaceutical needs for its area under section 128A of the NHS Act 2006. The aim of these needs assessments is to better inform local commissioning of pharmaceutical services and in turn improve health outcomes, contribute to wider developments in primary care provision and reduce health inequalities, by facilitating better access to pharmaceutical services appropriate for population needs. PCTs are required to produce their first pharmaceutical needs assessment by 1 February 2011.

Subject to final analysis of the consultation on 'Liberating the NHS: Local democratic legitimacy in health', which closed earlier in October, and completion of the forthcoming Health Bill, we expect the responsibility for the development under regulations of local pharmaceutical needs assessments (which are closely aligned to Joint Strategic Needs Assessments) to pass from PCTs when they are abolished to Health and Wellbeing Boards in local authorities.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress his Department has made in developing the National Medicines Concordance Scheme. [19623]

Mr Simon Burns: Discussions are continuing between NHS Employers (NHSE) and the Pharmaceutical Services Negotiating Committee on potential community pharmacy service developments, such as support for people with a long-term condition newly prescribed a medicine.

Departmental officials have asked NHSE to submit revised proposals, reflecting the coalition Government's strategy for health and care, including as set out in the recent White Paper. We have made it clear that any additional investment in service developments will need to be supported by a robust business case and be informed by the comprehensive spending review.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether community pharmacies will be represented on the *(a)* National Commissioning Board and *(b)* Public Health Board. [19693]

Mr Simon Burns: We intend to introduce legislation to establish the NHS Commissioning Board later this year. The Health Bill will set out further details about the membership of the Board and the process for making appointments.

The forthcoming Public Health White Paper will describe the new Public Health Service.

Thromboembolism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the requirement on acute services providers to report to their lead commissioner on *(a)* local audits of the percentage of patients risk-assessed for venous thromboembolism who receive the appropriate prophylaxis and *(b)* root cause analysis of all confirmed cases of hospital-acquired pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis. [19865]

Mr Simon Burns: As part of the National Venous Thromboembolism (VTE) Prevention Programme from 1 April 2010, the NHS Standard Contract for acute services requires providers to:

> Report to their lead commissioner on local audits of the percentage of patients risk-assessed for VTE who receive the appropriate prophylaxis being based on national guidance. (Where appropriate prophylaxis is used but is not based on national guidance, the reasons for this clinical decision will need to be fully documented); and
>
> undertake and report to their lead commissioner on root cause analysis of all confirmed cases of hospital acquired pulmonary embolism and deep vein thrombosis (including those arising from a current stay or new events arising where there is a history of admission to hospital within the last three months), in accordance with clause 29 and schedule 5 part 2. The National Patient Safety Agency are developing a two page VTE tailored guide on root cause analysis for the national health service expected to be available before the end of the year.

Failure to report in accordance with the provisions in the contract is a breach of performance that can lead to a withholding by the commissioners of up to 1% of monthly sums payable under the contract value until the breach is rectified. Where there is a persistent breach the withholding can be retained.

There are no current plans to remove this from acute care providers' contracts for 2011-12.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the national venous thromboembolism prevention strategy. [19867]

Mr Simon Burns: Reducing death and disability from venous thromboembolism (VTE) is a clinical priority for the national health service. The NHS leadership team have introduced a range of measures during 2010-11 to support the existing national VTE prevention programme.

The focus of the national programme is aimed at ensuring that:

> every adult patient admitted to an acute NHS service receives a documented VTE risk assessment;
>
> the risk assessment is followed up with appropriate prophylaxis based on national guidance;
>
> outcomes for patients are identified and recorded accurately; and
>
> the success of this national approach to VTE prevention is evaluated.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals to include reduced *(a)* venous thromboembolism and *(b)* appropriate thromboprophylaxis as an indicator for safe treatment in the first NHS Outcomes Framework; and if he will make a statement. [19868]

Mr Simon Burns: The consultation document "Transparency in Outcomes—a framework for the NHS" put forward a range of possible outcome measures that could be presented in the first NHS Outcomes Framework. This included a measure on venous thromboembolism as an improvement area in domain 5 of the framework (Treating and caring for people in a safe environment and protecting them from avoidable harm).

The consultation closed on 11 October. We are in the process of analysing the responses and it is expected that the first NHS Outcomes Framework, alongside the Government's response to the consultation, will be published in December 2010.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health pursuant to the answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 275W, on thromboembolism, what proportion of providers has met the Commissioning for Quality and Innovation scheme's goal on the reduction of venous thromboembolism. [19887]

Mr Simon Burns: As stated in the previous answer of 6 September 2010, assessing and rewarding achievement of both locally and nationally defined Commissioning for Quality and Innovation (CQUIN) goals is the responsibility of local commissioners as part of their contractual relationship with providers, and the Department does not collect specific data on the achievement of CQUIN goals.

For the national CQUIN goal on venous thromboembolism (VTE), the period over which commissioners will assess achievement during 2010-11 is a matter for local negotiation between commissioners and providers, although published guidance states that achievement of 90% must be over at least a full quarter to earn the related CQUIN payment. We understand that many providers are aiming to achieve the goal during the last quarter of 2010-11. A national data collection on VTE risk assessment started in June 2010. The publication date of the first full quarter's data is 3 December 2010.

TREASURY

Annuities

Jesse Norman: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology was used to calculate the 55% recovery rate, as proposed in his Department's consultation on reforming the pension tax framework and ending the effective requirement to purchase an annuity at the age of 75 years. [16884]

Mr Hoban: The Government announced at the June Budget that they will end the effective requirement to purchase an annuity by age 75 from April 2011, and published a consultation document in July. The consultation document set out that reforms should not incur Exchequer cost, and that relief previously given on contributions should be recovered for any funds remaining after death, as well as taking into account that no charge to inheritance tax will apply. Given these principles, the Government's preliminary view was that an appropriate recovery charge for most death benefits would be around 55%.

The final policy has not been decided and further detail on the tax reform proposals and the recovery charge will be published by the Government in the autumn after consideration of the consultation responses.

Margot James: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to encourage more pensioners to search for competitive offers when converting their pension savings into an annuity. [17500]

Mr Hoban *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The Government believe that it is important for people to save for retirement and recognise the importance of the annuities market in providing an income in retirement.

The Government support the Open Market Option which enables individuals to shop around for the best rate, and continue to consider ways to make this more effective.

Complementing this, the Government will continue to work with interested groups to improve the quality of 'pre-retirement' advice.

The Consumer Financial Education Body will launch the Annual Financial Healthcheck next spring, which will form a key component of the National Financial Advice Service.

Together these will help people to access the advice they require to make important decisions about their retirement savings.

Endowment Mortgages: Scotland

Katy Clark: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will make an estimate of the number of people who have experienced a shortfall in their endowment policies sold by solicitors in Scotland since the implementation of the provisions of the Financial Services and Markets Act 2000. [14896]

Mr Hoban: The information requested is not held centrally.

Financial Markets

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate his Department made of the value of the over-the-counter derivative market in each of the last five years. [17855]

Mr Hoban: The Bank for International Settlement provides information regarding the value of over-the-counter (OTC) derivative markets in its semiannual OTC derivatives statistics report. The latest detailed report can be found on the following website:

http://www.bis.org/statistics/derstats.htm

Financial Services Authority

Mr Raab: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will investigate the conduct of the Financial Services Authority in monitoring the activities of Crown Currency Exchange under the provisions of regulation 81 of the Payment Services Regulations 2009; and if he will make a statement. [19952]

Mr Hoban: The day-to-day operations of the Financial Services Authority are independent from Government control and influence.

The Financial Services Authority (FSA) does not regulate retail foreign currency exchange services. So the FSA did not regulate in any way the foreign currency exchange business of Crown Currency Exchange.

The Government will look at this case to see what lessons can be learned for the future.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when his Department plans to respond to the letters of 9 August and 29 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay (Mr Baron) on his constituent Mr J. Lowe. [20001]

Mr Gauke: I have replied to the hon. Member.

Mr Baron: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when his Department plans to respond to the letters of 17 August and 29 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay (Mr Baron) on his constituent Ms L. Keeble; [20005]

(2) when his Department plans to respond to the letters of 13 August and 29 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay (Mr Baron) on his constituent Mrs A. Black. [20002]

Mr Hoban: I have replied to my hon. Friend.

Personal Savings

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will take steps to encourage individuals to allocate a higher proportion of disposable income to savings; and if he will make a statement. [17924]

Mr Hoban: To ensure a sustainable and balanced economic recovery, the Government need to encourage people to save and invest. Recent levels of saving have been too low with the household saving ratio dipping into the negative in 2008 for the first time since the 1950s. The Government are therefore committed to creating conditions for higher savings.

The Government want a saving system based on freedom, fairness and responsibility, as well as ensuring lasting affordability and measureable effectiveness. These principles will guide the Government's aims of rewarding saving, supporting pensions, and helping vulnerable households to smooth their expenditure.

A number of measures have been announced which will take the first steps in meeting these aims, such as the Annual Financial Healthcheck, the indexation of annual subscription limits for Individual Saving Accounts (ISAs), meaning that savers will be able to pay an extra £480 into their ISAs in 2011-12, and an end to the effective requirement to annuitise pension savings at 75.

Public Expenditure

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in public spending per capita as a result of the £6.2 billion cost reductions announced on 24 May in each region. [735]

Danny Alexander: Regional spending data for 2010-11 are not yet available. However, the savings announced on 24 May 2010 had the effect of reducing total managed expenditure (TME) per capita in the UK as a whole by around £84 this year.

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer pursuant to the answer of 11 October 2010, *(a)* how many, *(b)* for what period of time and *(c)* at what cost to his Department staff were re-deployed temporarily to work on the Spending Challenge in July and August 2010. [18429]

Danny Alexander: As set out in my answer of 11 October the number of staff deployed on and contributing to the spending challenge in July and August 2010 varied depending on the particular requirements of the spending challenge at any one time. For those staff who were involved in the spending challenge while also taking forward other roles, I am afraid I can provide no further information as no record was made of the specific amount of time they devoted to the spending challenge alongside their other work.

In terms of staff being temporarily redeployed from other roles in the Treasury to devote the majority of their time to the spending challenge, this comprised two Treasury Range Es (Grade 7) and one Treasury Range D (HEO). Based on the estimated average costs to the Department of employing these staff, the staff costs incurred by the Treasury over July and August would stand at £27,666, all covered from within existing budgets.

As set out alongside the spending review, implementing ideas generated through the spending challenge will enable Government to save millions of pounds every year, far outweighing any costs imposed by the exercise.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to publish an assessment of the effects on *(a)* growth, *(b)* employment and *(c)* average household incomes of the proposals of the comprehensive spending review in (i) Scotland, (ii) Wales, (iii) Northern Ireland and (iv) each region of England. [19780]

Danny Alexander: The Government have no plans to publish this data on a regional basis. However, Annex B of the 2010 Spending Review report (Cm 7942) contains a distributional impact analysis of the spending review.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish the modelling undertaken by his Department on the likely social effects of the proposals in the comprehensive spending review. [19840]

Danny Alexander: The spending review, published on 20 October, set out spending plans for Departments to 2014-15. In implementing their plans, Departments will continue to give due consideration to the social effects of their undertakings, as per their obligations set out in the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, the Race Relations Act 1976 and the Disability Discrimination Act 1995. The Treasury has published an overview of the impact of Spending Review 2010 on equalities at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr2010_equalities.htm

HM Treasury has no existing plan to publish a document further to this; individual Departments will continue to consider these issues as identified above.

Public Expenditure: Children

Natascha Engel: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans the Public Expenditure Committee has to take into account the UK's obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child in its deliberations on public spending. [19585]

Danny Alexander: The Public Expenditure Committee takes account of all the United Kingdom's international treaty obligations, including the United Nations convention on the rights of the child (UNCRC). The education, health and well-being of children are vitally important for our society. The Government are committed to the UNCRC and believe it is vital that children and young people have a strong, independent advocate to champion their interests and views and to promote their rights.

Public Expenditure: Public Consultation

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) how many submissions his Department has received to its Spending Challenge initiative; and how many such submissions addressed *(a)* the defence budget and *(b)* the maintenance or replacement of the Trident nuclear weapons system; [18678]

(2) how many submissions his Department's Spending Challenge initiative received *(a)* in total, *(b)* on defence spending and *(c)* on the maintenance or replacement of the Trident nuclear weapon system; [19579]

Danny Alexander: Almost 64,000 ideas were submitted to the public sector element of the Spending Challenge, with over 45,000 further ideas being submitted through the general public element.

Following the sifting and amalgamation of similar ideas, there were 308 unique policy proposals relating to different aspects of the defence budget, including Trident, from the public sector website. The number of submissions relating to each policy proposal was not recorded during the Spending Challenge process.

On 20 October, we published the full list of unique policy proposals on the Spending Challenge website and will publish all the original ideas received through the Spending Challenge website that passed our moderation procedures shortly.

Public Sector: Pensions

Tony Baldry: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many people employed in the public sector were members of non-contributory pension schemes in the most recent period for which figures are available. [19788]

Danny Alexander: Public service employees who are members of the main public service pension schemes pay contributions towards their pensions, with the exception of members of the Armed Forces Pension Scheme—although the value of armed forces pensions is taken into account by the Armed Forces Pay Review Body when they make their recommendations on military pay. The number of members of this scheme as at 31 March 2010 can be found in the Armed Forces Pension Scheme Resource Accounts 2009-10 under Membership Statistics, which is available at:

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk/document/hc1011/hc02/0210/0210.pdf

Public Sector: Swansea

Geraint Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will conduct an impact assessment to establish the likely effects of implementation of the Comprehensive Spending Review outcomes on the number of public sector jobs in Swansea. [19583]

Danny Alexander: These data are not available and the Government have no plans to publish data of this kind. However, Annex B of the 2010 Spending Review report (Cm 7942) contains a distributional impact analysis of the spending review.

Tax Rates and Bands: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many higher rate taxpayers there are in Carlisle constituency. [18095]

Mr Gauke: The number of individual income taxpayers by constituency can be found in table 3.15 "Income and Tax by Parliamentary Constituency" at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_distribution/menu-by-year.htm#315

Estimates are based on the Survey of Personal Incomes, of which 2007-08 is currently the latest available.

Information on the number of higher rate taxpayers at constituency level is not readily available. Sample sizes at constituency level are small and estimates can demonstrate a large variability from year to year, therefore any inference from the information in table 3.15 should take into account the confidence intervals in table 3.15a "Income and Tax by Parliamentary Constituency, Confidence Intervals".

WORK AND PENSIONS

Businesses

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department provides support for small business owners dealing with customers who fail to pay for services that have been provided. [19006]

Mr Prisk: I have been asked to reply.

Business tells us that the number one priority is certainty of payment and that is why we support the Institute of Credit Management's (ICM) Prompt Payment Code, which requires signatories to pay according to agreed terms. Experian analysis suggests that signatories to the code represent around two-thirds of total UK supply chain value. We are also helping suppliers help themselves through our Managing Cash Flow guides, which are supported by all the leading business representative bodies.

It is open for any business to recover debts owed to it via the courts. The Bulk Claims Centre has been set up by HM Courts Service specifically to deal with straightforward high volume debt collection work. The Money Claims on Line (MCoL) system has been designed for creditors who do not issue high volumes of claims. Both systems remove the administrative and procedural work and provide users with a faster, guaranteed service. There are also discounts on the standard county court fees.

Child Maintenance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-resident parents who are liable to pay child maintenance to a parent with care who also receive child maintenance from that parent *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Walsall South constituency. [18436]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-resident parents who are liable to pay child maintenance to a parent with care who also receive child support payments from that parent (a) nationally and (b) in Walsall South constituency. [18436]

As at June 2010, there are 7,200 non-resident parents nationally who have a liability to pay child maintenance to a parent with care at the same time that they are receiving maintenance from that person for another case. Those receiving maintenance include cases where a maintenance direct arrangement is in place. Of those, 15 live in Walsall South constituency.

Some of these cases will include arrears only cases where the child or children have moved household but arrears of maintenance are still being collected. Figures include cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer systems only and exclude cases administered off system.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of parents with care who both pay and receive child maintenance *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Walsall South constituency. [18437]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his most recent estimate is of the number of parents with care who both pay and receive child maintenance (a) nationally and (b) in Walsall South constituency. [18437]

The number of parents with care nationally who are receiving child maintenance payments, who are also a non-resident parent paying child maintenance in the quarter to June 2010 was 6,530. Of those, 15 live in Walsall South constituency.

These figures include cases where maintenance direct arrangements are in place between the non-resident parent and the parent with care. The figures are for cases administered on the CS2 and CSCS computer system only and therefore exclude cases administered off-system.

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-resident *(a)* mothers and *(b)* fathers (i) nationally and (ii) in Walsall South constituency who have deductions for other relevant children taken into account before their income is tested for child maintenance payments to qualifying children. [18511]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, what his most recent estimate is of the number of non-resident (a) mothers and (b) fathers (i) nationally and (ii) in Walsall South constituency who have deductions for other relevant children taken into account before their income; is tested for child maintenance payments to qualifying children. [18511]

Nationally there are 124,300 male non-resident parents and 18,400 female non-resident parents who have child maintenance cases which take into account that the non-resident parent has a child support case for another child/children with a different parent with care, or that the non-resident parent has a relevant child/children living in their household. Of those, 185 male non-resident parents and 30 female non-resident parents live in Walsall South constituency.

These figures include non-resident parents with live and assessed cases where either a positive liability to pay maintenance exists or a nil liability decision has been made. Management information only records relevant other children on cases administered on the CS2 computer system. Therefore, cases administered on the CSCS computer system or off system are excluded from these figures.

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the oral answer to the hon. Member for Shipley (Philip Davies) of 14 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 586, on child maintenance, what recent discussions he has had with the Chief Executive of the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on a target for the collection of child maintenance payment arrears. [19818]

Maria Miller: The Government are considering the role that the child maintenance system can play in its overall commitment to support shared parenting and promote parental responsibility. In this context, and that of the spending review, the Department is in discussion with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission about a target for the collection of arrears.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the removal of the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people in residential care will be included in the welfare reform trials in Aberdeenshire and Burnley. [19515]

Maria Miller: There are no plans to increase the scope of the trial regarding migration of cases from incapacity benefit to employment and support allowance in Aberdeenshire and Burnley to include the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance or people in care homes.

Employment and Support Allowance: Scotland

Sheila Gilmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of applications for employment and support allowance made in Scotland in 2009 and 2010 were rejected on the basis of the work capability assessment; and in respect of what proportion of such applications that decision was *(a)* reversed and *(b)* upheld on appeal. [19661]

Chris Grayling: The following table provides the latest available data on new ESA claims received in Scotland between October 2008 and February 2010:

ESA outcomes at initial assessment for new claims received in Scotland between October 2008 and February 2010

	Percentage				
Month ESA claim started	*Support group*	*Work related activity group*	*Fit for work*	*Claim closed before assessment complete*	*Assessment still in progress*
2008					
October	5	8	47	39	1
November	5	8	46	40	1
December	5	9	44	41	1
2009					
January	5	10	47	38	1
February	5	10	46	38	1
March	5	9	48	37	1
April	5	10	47	37	1
May	6	9	46	37	1
June	6	10	45	39	1
July	7	9	45	37	2
August	7	10	45	36	2
September	7	10	45	35	2
October	8	10	45	35	3
November	7	10	44	36	3
December	7	11	42	37	4

ESA outcomes at initial assessment for new claims received in Scotland between October 2008 and February 2010

Month ESA claim started	*Support group*	*Work related activity group*	*Fit for work*	*Claim closed before assessment complete*	*Percentage Assessment still in progress*
2010					
January	7	11	41	36	6
February	7	10	40	35	8
Total	6	10	45	37	2

The following table gives the latest available data on the outcome of appeals for all new ESA claims received in Scotland between October 2008 and August 2009, where an appeal has been heard by July 2010. These are the latest dates for which we have available information.

Appeals against a fit for work decision in Scotland for ESA claims starting between October 2008 and August 2009 where an appeal has been heard by July 2010, rounded to nearest 10

Month ESA Claim Started	*Fit for work*	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage DWP decision upheld*
2008							
October	470	230	49	90	140	46	54
November	2,260	1,000	44	380	620	36	64
December	1,940	890	46	350	540	50	50
2009							
January	2,570	1,190	46	490	700	37	63
February	2,590	1,230	47	530	710	34	66
March	2,940	1,370	47	600	770	42	58
April	2,710	1,240	46	550	690	52	48
May	2,790	1,230	44	500	730	42	58
June	2,870	1,200	42	520	680	34	66
July	2,730	970	36	400	580	32	68
August	2,720	820	30	330	500	35	65
Total	26,590	11,370	43	4,730	6,640	40	60

These tables are comparable to and consistent with those found in our latest publication of official statistics on the Work Capability Assessment, released on 26 October 2010. This publication can be found on the internet at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/index.php?page=esa_wca

Employment Schemes: North East

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he plans to take to provide *(a)* training and *(b)* employment opportunities for people in the North East under the age of 25 years who have been unemployed for more than six months. [19256]

Chris Grayling: The Department for Business Innovation and Skills (BIS) has lead responsibility for the provision of training and skills in England. BIS published a consultative version of its strategy paper "Skills for Sustainable Growth" in July 2010 which outlined their vision for an effective skills strategy. The final paper will be available in November and its results will factor into BIS's decisions to develop their skills strategy for the future. BIS Ministers see providing skills support to Jobcentre Plus customers, including young people who are unemployed, as a priority.

There are also regional programmes which specifically address local skills and employment needs. Skills North East is the regional employment and skills partnership which invests in the development of skills to enhance the chances of those unemployed to gain employment.

The Government aim to have the new Work programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. This will help young people move into sustained employment rather then temporary jobs, and everyone, including young people, will have access to a fully integrated and coherent system of back-to-work support for the first time. We are planning further support for young people, including intensive work experience, more apprenticeships and more further education places.

Health and Safety Executive: Industrial Health and Safety

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many complaints of breaches of health and safety legislation the Health and Safety Executive received in respect of its own organisation in each of the last five years; and how many such complaints were confirmed on investigation in each such year. [19405]

Chris Grayling: HSE's records indicate that, over the last five years, there has been a single breach of health and safety legislation with respect to HSE's own organisation. This occurred at HSE's Health and Safety Laboratories (HSL) in Buxton in March 2008. As a result of HSL staff reporting structural and ventilation failings found in a laboratory, HSE's own specialist staff served a Crown Improvement Notice on HSL requiring a thorough examination of local exhaust ventilation equipment as required by the Control of Substances Hazardous to Health Regulations 2005. HSL met the requirements of the notice by the compliance date and the notice was discharged.

Health and Safety: Licensed Premises

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will review the adequacy of the Health and Safety Executive's enforcement regime for the purposes of ensuring that health and safety requirements are implemented by owners of licensed premises. [20050]

Chris Grayling: HSE shares the enforcement of health and safety law with local authorities. Licensed premises are predominantly in the entertainment sector for which local authorities are the enforcing authority under the health and safety (enforcing authority) regulations.

HSE has responsibility for operational policy in local authority enforced premises. It fulfils this role by identifying issues of concern and developing standards, advice and guidance to local authority inspectors. It also provides operational support when needed to their investigatory and enforcement work.

Housing and Council Tax Benefit: Fraud

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of convictions for *(a)* housing benefit and *(b)* council tax benefit fraud as a result of local authority fraud investigations in each of the last five years. [18088]

Steve Webb: The estimated number of convictions for housing benefit and council tax benefit fraud as a result of local authority fraud investigations from April 2005 to March 2008 are as follows:

Housing benefit and council tax convictions

	Number
2005-06	6,234
2006-07	5,860
2007-08	6,493

These figures represent the total number of convictions for housing benefit and council tax benefit fraud. Information is not available on the number of convictions for housing benefit alone and for council tax benefit alone.

The number of convictions for housing benefit and council tax benefit fraud from April 2008 to date is currently unavailable. From 1 April 2008, the Department moved to monitoring performance on fraud and error activity through a new quarterly return, the Housing Benefit Recoveries and Fraud (HBRF). Work is currently under way to quality assure this data and the statistics will be published in due course.

Housing Benefit

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much revenue his Department expects to accrue consequent on the removal of housing benefit excess in each of the next 10 years; and what estimate his Department has made of the cost to the public purse of the administration of that change in each relevant year. [18541]

Steve Webb: The estimated saving to the Exchequer associated with this measure in terms of reduced annually managed expenditure in the next four financial years is:

	£ million
2011-12	160
2012-13	310
2013-14	310
2014-15	310

The administrative impacts of this measure are expected to be negligible. The excess provision will be removed for existing customers when their claim is reviewed by the local authority which will usually be at the anniversary point of the claim.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions from what local authorities he has received representations on local housing allowance and housing benefits since June 2010; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence with each such local authority. [20048]

Steve Webb: A search of correspondence addressed to Department for Work and Pensions Ministers has shown that the following local authorities have made representations following the June 2010 Budget announcements where the subject is recorded as local housing allowance or housing benefit.

Barrow Borough Council
Brent Council
Brighton and Hove City Council
Gwynedd Council
London Borough of Newham
South Worcestershire—Malvern Hills District, Worcester City and Wychavon District—(shared services)
Westminster City Council

Copies of the correspondence will be placed in the Library.

Other similar letters and representations may have been received, but recorded under different subjects, or not recorded on the system.

We have also consulted formally with the local authority associations on the reform proposals.

Housing Benefit: Children

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what assessment he has made of the effects on local demand for school places of the proposed reductions in entitlements to housing benefit; and if he will make a statement; [20173]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of children who will be required to move to another school as a result of their family moving home following a reduction in housing benefit in each of the next four years. [20174]

Steve Webb: We have discussed the possible impacts of the housing benefit changes with the Department for Education and the devolved Administrations. It is not however possible to estimate how many households with children will move, or where they will move to.

Housing Benefit: Poverty

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that the planned reductions in entitlements to housing benefit do not result in an increase in the number of children living in poverty in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [20172]

Steve Webb: Our initial estimates suggest that the housing benefit policies announced in the June 2010 Budget will not have a significant impact on the overall number of children in poverty. We are currently working to refine this estimate. The welfare reforms announced in the June 2010 Budget and the 2010 spending review will enable a greater proportion of expenditure to be spent on services such as increasing support for the poorest in the early years and investing in Sure Start health visitors to ensure that the poorest families are not trapped in a cycle of dependency.

Housing Benefit: Social Rented Housing

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the ability of housing associations to raise and service finance on the capital markets to fund the building of housing in each of the next five years of *(a)* the proposed weekly cap on housing benefit and *(b)* the uprating in housing benefit, with reference to the consumer price index rather than average rents. [18542]

Steve Webb: The weekly caps and the uprating in line with the consumer price index announced in the June budget apply to housing benefit claims from private sector tenants assessed under the local housing allowance arrangements. Housing Association tenants are not assessed using the local housing allowance and are not therefore subject to either of these measures.

Incapacity Benefits

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's estimates of the number of recipients of benefits awarded on a condition of incapacity or limited capability who will in future be found to be fit for work include assumptions relating to the number of successful appeals against work capability assessments which will be made. [19911]

Chris Grayling: As we begin to reassess the work capability of incapacity benefit claimants, we anticipate that the volume of cases processed will result in higher overall volumes of appeals. The quantity and likely outcomes of these appeals have been factored into our estimates.

Independent Living 2006 Fund

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the future of the independent living fund; and if he will make a statement. [19307]

Maria Miller: We are considering options for the long-term future of the independent living fund in consultation with the Department of Health and the trustees of the independent living fund. In order to safeguard existing users' awards the independent living fund is not accepting new applications for the remainder of the year. In reaching any decision on the future of the independent living fund we will work with the trustees of the fund, disabled peoples' organisations and other key stakeholders to ensure that the needs of existing users of the independent living fund are taken into account.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when his Department plans to respond to the letters of 23 August and 30 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay (Mr Baron) on his constituent Mr M. Allison. [20003]

Chris Grayling: The Minister for Welfare Reform replied to the hon. Member's letters on 18 October 2010 (our reference: POS(4)10330/224). I have arranged for a copy to be sent to him.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons support for mortgage interest payments was reduced before agreement on averaging out rates was reached. [18639]

Steve Webb: The standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest was fixed at 6.08% by the last Administration. That rate resulted in the vast majority of people getting more than their eligible mortgage interest liability, which was unfair to taxpayers.

On 22 June 2010, the Chancellor announced in the emergency Budget that the standard interest rate would be based on the Bank of England's published monthly average mortgage interest rate. Legislation to introduce this change came into effect from 1 October 2010 and the standard interest rate is currently 3.63%.

We believe this is fairer to claimants compared to the previous Administration's plans to revert to 2.08% from January 2011.

The Government will continue to explore with mortgage lenders the scope for them to "freeze" benefit claimants' mortgage accounts and apply a standard interest rate for a fixed period.

Personal Income

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what the median gross household income was in the most recent year for which figures are available. [20264]

Chris Grayling: The latest available figures show the median equivalised gross income in 2008-09 is £515 per week. This statistic is based on households below average income (HBAI) data sourced from the 2008-09 Family Resources Survey (FRS). This uses disposable household income, adjusted using modified OECD equivalisation factors for household size and composition, as an income measure as a proxy for standard of living. All estimates are based on survey data and are therefore subject to uncertainty. Gross incomes have been presented. The HBAI publication looks at net disposable incomes before and after housing costs. Figures have been rounded to the nearest pound sterling.

Public Expenditure

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the monetary value of savings credit payments in 2014-15 *(a)* taking account and *(b)* not taking into account of the implementation of the proposed changes to that scheme announced in the (i) June 2010 Budget and (ii) comprehensive spending review. [19872]

Steve Webb: Any assessment of the monetary value of savings credit payments as a result of the announcements made in the June 2010 Budget and the comprehensive spending review will feed into the 2011 up-rating. An up-rating statement will be made in the House later this year.

Social Security Benefits

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made an estimate of the number of residents of each local authority area in Scotland who are likely to be affected by the proposed time limit on the payment of employment and support allowance. [20009]

Chris Grayling: As part of the spending review announcement, we have set out our intention to introduce a time limit of one year for those claiming contributory employment and support allowance and who are placed in the work-related activity group. All other groups claiming employment and support allowance are not affected by this measure.

Estimates of the numbers affected by time limiting are not available by local authority area.

Social Security Benefits: Fines

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms will be put in place for benefit claimants who wish to dispute fines levied for not informing the relevant agency of a change of circumstances. [19838]

Chris Grayling: On 18 October, the Department published its new strategy to tackle fraud and error in the benefit and tax credits system. The strategy announced the introduction of a new £50 civil penalty for those individuals who fail to take reasonable care of their claim, or who knowingly let a change in circumstance run on while incurring an overpayment.

There will be a clear appeals process in place so that claimants can disagree with the overpayment decision and also against the decision to instigate a penalty. The claimant will be given full details on how to undertake their appeals and the timescales within which they may do so.

The penalty is intended to deter negligent behaviour and increase personal responsibility for keeping claims correct.

A copy of the full strategy can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/tackling-fraud-and-error.pdf

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the loss to the Exchequer consequent on benefit fraud in each *(a)* local authority and *(b)* region in each year since 1997. [17444]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not available.

DWP fraud and error estimates, published in the Fraud and Error in the Benefit System series, provide fraud and error estimates at a national level. The estimates are derived from the examination of a sample of benefit payments. The sample sizes are too small to produce valid estimates at sub-national level.

The total amount lost to fraud in the benefit system in 2009-10 is estimated at around £1 billion. Of this, around £260 million is estimated overpaid due to fraud in housing benefit.

The latest estimates of fraud and error in the benefits system can be found at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd2/fem/fem_oct08_sep09.pdf

On 18 October 2010 the Government published a radical new strategy for reducing fraud and error in the welfare system. The strategy sets out a range of measures to reduce fraud and error by over 25% by March 2015. The strategy can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/tackling-fraud-and-error.pdf

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people have been prosecuted for benefit fraud in *(a)* Bury North constituency and *(b)* the North West in the last three years; what the cost to his Department has been of benefit fraud in each such area in each such year; and what steps his Department is taking to reduce the level of benefit fraud. [19251]

Chris Grayling: The number of people prosecuted for benefit fraud in Bury North and the North West in each of the last three years is not available. The cost to the Department of benefit fraud in Bury North is not available, but the value of fraudulent overpayments can be identified for part of the period for the North West. The following information is available:

Total value of identified fraudulent overpayments in the North West

	£
2008-09	28,384,000
2009-10	24,766,000
2010-11[1]	12,296,000

[1] To end September 2010.

Notes:

1. Figures for 2007-08 are not available due to roll-out of the Fraud Referral and Intelligence Management System (FRAIMS).
2. Data in table extracted from FRAIMS.
3. Figures are rounded to the nearest thousand.

On 18 October 2010 the Government published a radical new strategy for reducing fraud and error in the welfare system. The strategy sets out a range of measures to reduce fraud and error by over 25% by March 2015. The strategy can be found at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/docs/tackling-fraud-and-error.pdf

Winter Fuel Payments: British Nationals Abroad

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) what the cost to the public purse was of payment of the winter fuel allowance to pensioners living in Spain in the latest year for which figures are available; [19026]

(2) what his most recent estimate is of the average annual cost to the public purse of payment of the winter fuel allowance to pensioners who are not domiciled in the UK. [19027]

Steve Webb: In 2009-10, the most recent date for which information is available, expenditure on winter fuel payments paid to people living in Spain was estimated to be £7 million.

Expenditure on winter fuel payments paid to people living in the European economic area and Switzerland in 2009-10, the most recent date for which information is available, was £15 million. This represents less than 1% of the total expenditure on winter fuel payments.

Note:

The distribution of the different levels of payment in Spain is assumed to be the same as that for the European economic area, as country-level information about distribution of payment amounts is not available.

Source:

DWP Statistical and Accounting Data

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Developing Countries: EC Aid

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development whether his Department holds figures on the monetary value *(a)* in total and *(b)* per head of population of the recipient country disbursed to each country from the (i) EU aid budget and (ii) European Development Fund in the latest period for which figures are available. [20007]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development (DFID) does not collate these data. The latest figures can be found in the European Commission's annual report on the European Union's development and external assistance policies and their implementation in 2009. Total EU Official Development Assistance (ODA) by country and per capita in each country in 2009 is available in table 6.11 on page 180. I will arrange for a copy of the report to be deposited in the Library of the House. A breakdown of EU ODA provided through the EU Budget and European Development Fund (EDF) is not available. The majority of EU ODA to African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries is provided through EDF.

Economic Growth: Finance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to economic growth and wealth creation programmes in each year to 2014-15. [19826]

Mr O'Brien: The UK Government are reviewing all bilateral and multilateral programmes to ensure resources are focused where they will achieve most impact. The outcome of the reviews will determine allocations across the Department for International Development, including allocations to economic growth and wealth creation, for the four years of the spending review period. Wealth creation in developing countries is critical to poverty alleviation and is one of six key priorities for the UK Government, as set out in the Structural Reform Plan.

Haiti: Earthquakes

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what information he holds on the monetary value of EU aid delivered to Haiti since the earthquake in that country; on what programmes his Department's contribution to that aid has been spent; what timetable has been set for the delivery of that aid; what proportion of that aid has been delivered on time on the latest date for which figures are available; and if he will make a statement. [20006]

Mr O'Brien: Since the earthquake in Haiti, the EU's immediate humanitarian response, managed by the European Commission, has amounted to €30 million (£27 million) up to the end of September. A further €90 million (£80 million) is planned to be spent by August 2011 on various interventions including shelter, water sanitation and hygiene, health, nutrition and food assistance. In the longer term, €460 million (£409 million) has been earmarked for reconstruction assistance.

The UK's share of this EU assistance is estimated at some 14%. It is not earmarked for any particular part of these EU programmes.

Overseas Aid

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department plans to allocate to *(a)* the Stabilisation Aid Fund and *(b)* the Conflict Prevention Pool in (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [20280]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The Stabilisation Aid Fund and Conflict Prevention Pool were merged into a single Conflict Pool in financial year 2009-10.

The Conflict Pool does not draw its resources from departmental budgets; it is part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence. The settlement provides resources to cover the United Kingdom's legally binding commitments on assessed peacekeeping costs (the Peacekeeping Budget) as well as discretionary expenditure on conflict prevention, stabilisation and peacekeeping (the Conflict Pool). As announced in the spending review, the Conflict Pool will increase over the next spending review period to £309 million in 2014-15. A statement on detailed allocations for Conflict Pool activity next financial year will be made in the coming weeks.

This financial year, the Conflict Pool is £178.5 million. DFID has allocated an additional £1.5 million from its departmental budget to supplement the Conflict Pool's programme in Sri Lanka and £10 million for stabilisation activities in Afghanistan.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Equality Act 2010

Cathy Jamieson: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities when the Government intend to commence the public sector duty on socio-economic inequalities contained in the Equality Act 2010. [19896]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 27 October 2010]*: The Government are committed to tackling poverty and tearing down the barriers to equal opportunity. They are pushing ahead with policies that will make a real difference to people's life chances—the pupil premium, welfare reform, raising the income tax threshold, and improving work incentives.

No decision has been taken on the commencement of the socio-economic inequalities duty.

Equality: Court Orders

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what recent discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Justice on equal treatment for fathers and mothers in the enforcement of family court orders. [19941]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government have had discussions with a number of fathers' groups about supporting involvement of both parents in their children's upbringing following relationship breakdown.

The Family Justice Review, led by Sir David Norgrove is examining how to promote contact for non-resident parents and grandparents where this is in the best interests of the child.

Females: Low Incomes

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities pursuant to the contribution of the Minister for Equalities of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 152, in the adjournment debate on public expenditure reduction (women), what the evidential basis is that *(a)* the Library's analysis of the Budget's impact on women was (i) biased and (ii) not robust and *(b)* the Library research makes an extreme assumption that no income is shared; and what assumptions about (A) family structures and (B) how resources are shared within a household the Government made before the Budget. [15154]

Lynne Featherstone: Any analysis of tax and welfare changes by gender must make assumptions about how resources are shared within the household.

Sharing of resources within the household will mean that although a benefit is received by a particular person in the household, the full impact does not fall on that person because the resource is shared with their partner and/or children. Taking account of this kind of income pooling is very difficult, as data and research in this area are sparse. Households share their resources in different ways—some will have no income pooling; some will share some income while others will share all their income. To analyse the impact of Budget decisions by gender, assumptions must be made about the extent to which resources are shared.

The House of Commons Library has chosen to assume no income pooling in their research. While I accept that this assumption was chosen without political bias, it is an extreme assumption, and is unlikely to represent the way most households share resources. The results of the analysis depend heavily on the assumption that there is no household sharing, and should be interpreted accordingly recognising that a different choice of income pooling assumption would give different results. The analysis only includes selected measures, such as the abolition of the Health in Pregnancy grant, and excludes others, for example, the council tax freeze. Therefore the coverage can only be partial.

In producing the analysis in annex A of the June 2010 Budget document, the Treasury based its assumptions about family structures on the Expenditure and Food Survey, and factors supplied by the Office for National Statistics. The Budget analysis was produced at a household level, and therefore assumptions around resource sharing would have no direct impact on the analysis presented.

DEFENCE

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the costs of reinstatement of facilities in Germany when UK armed forces personnel stationed there have left. [20260]

Nick Harvey: As announced by the Prime Minister on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 797, as part of the strategic defence and security review, the Government have decided to accelerate the re-basing of 20,000 military personnel in Germany with aim to returning half of those personnel to the UK by 2015 and the remainder by 2020.

Detailed work is now under way to consider how this will be implemented, and reinstatement of facilities will form an important part of this planning. At this stage it is not possible to provide an accurate estimate of likely reinstatement costs.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the new employment model for the armed forces; and if he will make a statement. [19653]

Peter Luff: The new employment model is currently in the concept development phase, and we are examining how we might adjust terms and conditions of service in order to balance the expectations of service personnel with the demands placed upon them. The aim is to promote greater stability in service life while continuing to compensate for mobility.

Armed Forces: Germany

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many children of service personnel are resident in Germany; [19538]

(2) what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Education on schooling of children of armed forces personnel in Germany. [19539]

Dr Fox: The latest figures available show that there are approximately 12,000 dependent children on the Ministry of Defence (MOD) estate in Germany.

Ministry of Defence officials engage with Department for Education and Ofsted officials on a regular basis about the education of service children, including those in Germany. For example, officials are currently closely involved with the consultation on and development of ideas about a pupil premium for service children. Furthermore, the MOD director of the Children and Young People's Trust, who is also chief executive of Service Children's Education, the body responsible for military schools overseas, meets regularly with the Department for Education Advocate for Service Children.

Armed Forces: Housing

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the *(a)* value for money and *(b)* transparency of arrangements for letting subcontracts made by his Department's prime contractors; and if he will make a statement. [18045]

Peter Luff: It is the Ministry of Defence's policy to encourage competition at subcontract level. Prime contractors are required to do this and advertise opportunities in the MOD Defence Contracts Bulletin, where appropriate. The MOD and industry have agreed principles that should be observed in the flow down of standard terms and conditions of contract at lower tiers in the supply chain.

As part of our Green Paper on Defence Industry and Technology, to be published before the end of the year, we will be consulting on the role of small and medium sized businesses in defence acquisition.

Armed Forces: Personnel

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans his Department has to use manning control points to terminate the contracts of service personnel. [20258]

Peter Luff: Since the days of National Service the Manning Control Point process has been used by the Army to address the difficulties created by individuals who have reached the limit of their employability or promotion prospects and are therefore restricting promotion opportunities for more junior soldiers. The process is not currently in use, and its future application is under review.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what his most recent estimate is of the cost of the Future Rapid Effects System programme; [19436]

(2) what the in-service date is for the Future Rapid Effects System utility vehicle. [19437]

Peter Luff: The Future Rapid Effect System programme has been recast from a single programme into a set of constituent programmes: the specialist vehicle programme, the utility vehicle programme, and the manoeuvre support vehicle programme.

Expenditure to 30 September 2010 for the specialist vehicle and utility vehicle projects totals £249 million. There has been nil expenditure to date on the manoeuvre support vehicle project.

The total estimated costs and the in-service dates cannot be confirmed until their respective main investment decisions are made. The timing of these decisions is subject to review following the publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Army: Reorganisation

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of his proposals for the reorganisation of the Army structure on force generation in the Army. [19546]

Nick Harvey: The reorganisation of the Army structure is designed to optimise force generation in the future to meet proposed Defence Planning Assumptions. The transformation over the next ten years to Future Force 2020 will provide five self-supporting Multi-Role Brigades and one specialist brigade, as opposed to the current mix of armoured, mechanised and light brigades which at present requires elements to be drawn from more than one formation to generate the forces required for current operations. In the period to 2015 no changes will be made which would have any adverse impact on our ability to generate forces for current operations in Afghanistan.

Civil Service: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the 25,000 reduction in civil service personnel he expects to be achieved through redundancy. [19544]

Peter Luff: It is too early to say. Discussions are under way with the trade unions to determine how the reductions may be achieved through various means including natural wastage and voluntary early release, thereby minimising the need for compulsory redundancies.

Defence Estates

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to reduce expenditure by rationalising defence estates. [19642]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been made on changes to the management of Defence estates.

The Defence estate is kept under continual review to ensure that it is of the right size and quality to meet operational needs. However, estate rationalisation arising from the Strategic Defence and Security Review could lead to a further reduction in the size of the estate and to lower running costs.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes he plans to make to the management and delivery of infrastructure services across defence estates. [19643]

Peter Luff: No decisions have yet been made on changes to the management and delivery of infrastructure services across Defence estates.

Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will bring forward proposals to transfer the functions of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator to an independent external regulatory body under the control of the proposed new Office of Nuclear Regulation. [19709]

Peter Luff: There are no proposals to transfer the functions of the Defence Nuclear Safety Regulator (DNSR) to any other body.

DNSR will continue to work closely with the statutory regulators, including the proposed Office of Nuclear Regulation, to provide complete regulation of the defence nuclear programmes including those aspects exempted from statutory oversight.

Defence: Telecommunications Spectrum

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how he plans to proceed with the sale of the defence stake in the telecommunications spectrum; [19635]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects of the sale of the defence stake in the telecommunications spectrum on operations undertaken by UK armed forces. [19636]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence is currently evaluating its spectrum holdings between 70 MHz and 15 GHz to prepare for an initial release of spectrum in late 2012. This evaluation work will conclude in spring 2011 and a planned timetable of spectrum releases will be published shortly thereafter. MOD is considering several options for its approach to the market to release spectrum, including engaging a third party to trade spectrum on its behalf.

It is likely that there will need to be some changes to the use of spectrum, but we do not anticipate that there will be any adverse impact to operations in the UK or elsewhere.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the monetary value of his Department's share of the national telecommunications spectrum. [19732]

Peter Luff: We do not have an estimate of the total value of spectrum holdings assigned to Defence; this can only be determined realistically by reference to the market. Based on the Spectrum Audit conducted by Professor Martin Cave in 2004-05, the Ministry of Defence (MOD) is paying a fee of some £64 million to Ofcom in financial year 2010-11 for the use of its spectrum holdings. The value of individual elements of MOD's spectrum holding will be determined when we bring some of our spectrum to market in the 2012-13 financial year. The precise details are yet to be established but the aim will be to maximise revenue to the Exchequer.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the statement of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 797-801 on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, whether the figure to be notified to NATO in respect of the proportion of gross domestic product spent on defence was calculated on the basis of his Department's core budget; and what account this calculation took of direct funding of defence expenditure from the Exchequer. [19319]

Mr Gerald Howarth: The figures reported to NATO are for defence expenditure, detailed as per NATO instructions. This definition includes the Ministry of Defence's (MOD) core budget along with the cost of operations, pensions and Armed Forces Compensation Scheme payments made to ex-military personnel, and non-budget costs.

The MOD has estimated spending on defence as a percentage of GDP will continue to meet the NATO target of 2% over the spending review period.

Defence: Cyber Operations

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure he expects his Department to incur on the UK Defence Cyber Operations Group in the first 12 months of its operation. [19566]

Nick Harvey: £650 million has been agreed to fund the National Cyber Programme across Government. Detailed work on the Defence Cyber operations Group is ongoing, including determining the level of resource allocation.

Departmental Apprentices

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many apprentices were in post at the Met Office on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such apprentices recruited in the last 12 months *(a)* were previously apprentices, *(b)* had been long-term unemployed and *(c)* are graduates. [20268]

Peter Luff: There are no apprentices in post at the Met Office and none have been recruited in the last 12 months. The Met Office primarily meets its needs for trainees through graduate recruitment campaigns. The Met Office also runs an innovative IT trainee scheme, training individuals from A-level standard—seven have just completed this scheme and are now employed.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the five most expensive hospitality events hosted by his Department and its agencies have been since his appointment; and what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of each of those events. [19277]

Peter Luff: Comparative cost information on hospitality events across the Ministry of Defence is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

We offer hospitality to pursue the UK's security policy interests, to give the public a better understanding of our armed forces and to enhance professional contacts within the UK and with other countries. Expenditure must be modest and necessary—under current spending restrictions any new expenditure is prohibited except in exceptional circumstances and must be approved by a senior military officer or senior civil servant.

Yearly expenditure on entertainment and hospitality is published in the MOD's Annual Accounts, copies of which are placed in the Library of the House.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Typhoon jets he intends to order in the next five years. [19551]

Peter Luff: No decision has been made on any further orders.

Hercules Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings he expects to accrue to his Department as a result of bringing forward the withdrawal of the C130J Hercules. [19545]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the strategic defence and security review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trades unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity, and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

Manpower

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) in which areas of the Royal Navy he expects there to be *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* redundancies in the next five years; [19645]

(2) in which areas of the British Army he expects there to be *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* redundancies in the next five years; [19646]

(3) in which armed forces *(a)* ranks and *(b)* units he expects headcounts to be reduced to achieve a 7,000 reduction in Army personnel; [19547]

(4) in which areas of the Royal Air Force he expects there to be *(a)* recruitment and *(b)* redundancies in the next five years. [19651]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review announced that by 2015, the overall size of the Royal Navy would be reduced by around 5,000 to around 30,000, the Army by 7,000 to around 95,000 and the Royal Air Force by 5,000 to around 33,000. Further detailed work is required on how this reduction will be implemented. Some reduction will be managed through natural turnover. However, we do expect some redundancies. The process of identifying specific personnel requirements will take some time.

We will continue to recruit in many areas of Defence to ensure we maintain critical skills and a coherent mix of trained and experienced personnel for the future.

Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he plans to proceed with the sale of Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre. [19634]

Peter Luff: The Government intend to sell the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre through an arrangement that continues to provide the Ministry of Defence with the levels of service support it requires while delivering best value for money. The project implementation plan is being developed. I will write to the hon. Member when this is complete.

Nimrod Aircraft

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what role the Nimrod platform has in protecting continuous at-sea deterrence. [19240]

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what capabilities will fulfil the role that would otherwise have been undertaken by Nimrod MRA4 aircraft. [20262]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of jobs of the cancellation of the Nimrod MRA4 programme; [20150]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of the cancellation of the Nimrod MRA4 programme; [20151]

(3) what penalty payments his Department is liable to pay BAE Systems in respect of the cancellation of the Nimrod MRA4 programme. [20152]

Peter Luff: The decision not to bring the Nimrod MRA4 into service announced by the Prime Minister on 19 October was difficult, owing to the nature of the military tasks to which it was designed to contribute, the amount of public money that had been spent on it, and the impact of such a decision on the people who have dedicated their careers to delivering this capability, or who depend on it for their livelihoods.

However, the severe financial pressures faced by the nation and the urgent need to bring the defence programme into balance meant that we could not retain all our existing programmes, and that we had to prioritise those capabilities that we could continue to maintain. This project has suffered from repeated delays and cost overruns. But it is the aircraft's future support costs that contributed to the decision not to bring it into service, despite its advanced state.

The Nimrod MRA4's role as an Intelligence, Surveillance, Target Acquisition and Reconnaissance platform was to contribute to a wide range of military tasks. These included the protection of the nuclear deterrent and deployed Maritime Task Groups, surveillance and tracking of surface shipping, and a number of other operations relevant to the security of the UK and its overseas territories. The aircraft also fulfilled a secondary role in support of Long Range Search and Rescue.

Since the withdrawal of the Nimrod MR2 in March this year, the Ministry of Defence has sought to mitigate the gap in capability through the use of other military assets, including Type 23 Frigates, Merlin Anti Submarine Warfare helicopters and Hercules C-130 aircraft, and by relying, where appropriate, on assistance from allies and partners. Although it was originally assumed that such measures would only be required for a limited period of time, we are now developing a longer-term plan to mitigate the impact of cancellation on our continuing military tasks and capabilities. In view of the sensitive and classified nature of some of these military tasks, and the implications for the protection of our armed forces, including the nuclear deterrent, it is not possible for us to comment on these measures in detail.

Following last week's announcement we have also begun discussing with BAE Systems arrangements to terminate the contracts for production and support of the aircraft. Until these negotiations are complete it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the likely costs or the impact on personnel employed on the Nimrod MRA4 programme.

Reserve Forces

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for the review of the reserve forces; and if he will make a statement. [20023]

Peter Luff: Discussions on the terms of reference and timetable for the study into the future role and structure of the reserves (including the Maritime Reserve, Territorial Army and Royal Auxiliary Air Force) are currently taking place. Once agreed we will place a copy of the terms of reference in the Library of the House.

Reserve Forces

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what discussions he has had on the role of the Reserve Forces and Cadets Association within the armed services as part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [17202]

Dr Fox: I refer my hon. Friend to the announcement made by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 799, about the review of our reserve forces.

There has been engagement with the reserve forces and cadet associations by Ministers and senior officials throughout the strategic defence and security review and these will continue as the scope and terms of reference of the review are finalised.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what penalty payments his Department is liable to pay in respect of the cancellation of contracts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [20148]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) will be engaged in an extensive programme of commercial negotiations with its suppliers in the coming months, as part of the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) implementation process. This will focus on the areas where savings can be delivered and contract changes are required as a result of SDSR measures.

Any liabilities as a result of contract cancellation or amendment will only emerge from this process.

Territorial Army

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of the working group on the future of the Territorial Army. [19655]

Peter Luff: Discussions on the terms of reference of the study into the future role and structure of the Reserves (including Maritime Reserve, Territorial Army and Royal Auxiliary Air Force) are currently taking place. Once agreed we will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Unmanned Air Vehicles

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many unmanned aerial vehicles (UAV) he expects to order in the Spending Review period; and by what date he expects such vehicles to be in service; [20259]

(2) how many new unmanned aerial vehicles he expects to order; and what timescale he has set for their entry into service. [20418]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence has in recent weeks placed an order for a further 100 Mini Unmanned Air Systems (UAS) Desert Hawk III Air Vehicles to sustain the capability which has been supporting our troops in theatre since 2007. These are expected to be delivered in 2011-12. Additionally, we plan to order and receive up to five additional Reaper remotely piloted aircraft during the Spending Review period. Consideration of our requirement for future persistent armed surface surveillance is in its early stages. A remotely piloted system is one of the potential options to deliver this capability.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Basic Skills: Finance

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department allocates for basic literacy and numeracy assessments undertaken in relation to the Basic Skills for Life programme; and if he will make a statement. [3461]

Mr Hayes: The funding for assessment in literacy and numeracy provision is included within the overall funding provided for each course; therefore there is no separate allocated amount. Learners are placed on the appropriate course depending on an initial assessment of their needs, and then they have the opportunity to work towards the achievement of a qualification.

Business: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps he has taken to increase access to finance for businesses in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency. [19966]

Mr Prisk: The coalition Government have articulated their ambition to ensure the flow of credit to viable SMEs. Our consultation on business finance issues, "Financing a private sector recovery" closed on the 20 September, and received many responses from a wide range of firms, business representative bodies, individuals and investors. We are currently considering the Government's response which will be given shortly.

There are various measures already in place to support access to finance for SMEs. I aim to continue to support and improve the diversity of sources and access to finance for SMEs that meet their needs. Such sources of finance available to SMEs including those in the hon. Gentleman's constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford were announced by the Chancellor in the budget:

> A £200 million extension to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee (EFG), to benefit around 2,000 extra small businesses. In total, the EFG will now support up to £700 million in bank lending to viable small businesses. As at the 20 October, 10 businesses in the constituency of Bexleyheath and Crayford have been offered and have drawn down loans totalling £0.72 million.
>
> A new Enterprise Capital Fund to support small businesses with high growth potential—combining both Government and private sector funding.
>
> Confirmation of a Growth Capital Fund, to provide funding of between £2 million and £10 million for small and medium-sized businesses (SMEs) with strong growth potential.

Business: Equality

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many meetings officials of his Department have had with the Government Equalities Office on the effect of equalities legislation on small businesses since his appointment. [18899]

Mr Prisk: Officials in BIS have met with officials from the Government Equalities Office on numerous occasions since my appointment to discuss a wide range of policy issues, including equalities legislation, and any such discussions that consider the impact of policy proposals on business include the effects on small businesses.

Business: Females

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what programmes his Department has in the higher education system to encourage female entrepreneurs; and how much his Department spent on each such programme *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in the West Midlands in the latest year for which figures are available. [18443]

Mr Prisk: The Department funds the National Council for Graduate Entrepreneurship (NCGE) to provide programmes in the higher education system that encourage entrepreneurs. "Make it Happen" and "Flying Start" are the two programmes that promote entrepreneurship to students and graduates. The total grant in aid allocated for the NCGE was £1.824 million in 2009/10 and is £900,000 in 2010/11 (subject to finalisation of the organisation's business plan and ministerial agreement).

NCGE is continuing to support young people who joined "Make It Happen" last year. Of these, 1,875 are female entrepreneurs (46% of total numbers), and 117 of those female entrepreneurs are based in the West Midlands (6% of the total).

NCGE ran two of its three-day "Flying Start" programmes specifically for female students during the last financial year. Some 60 women attended these sessions.

The Department does not hold figures aggregating the proportion of funding for "Make It Happen" and "Flying Start" that was spent on women only.

Business: Unfair Practices

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward legislative proposals to prevent those previously convicted for offences relating to trading practices in a particular sector owning more than a minority shareholding in a new business in the same sector. [20220]

Mr Davey: There are no plans to bring forward legislation in this area.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since his Department's inception. [18775]

Mr Davey: Six officials in BIS have been subject to disciplinary action in the calendar year 2010 to date. In 2009, the year of the Department's inception, 11 officials were subject to disciplinary action. Disciplinary action may include warnings, downgrading or dismissal.

We are unable to provide the further breakdown requested as totals of five or less in each category are suppressed on the grounds of confidentiality under section 40 of the Data Protection Act. Also responsibility for commencing capability and minor disciplinary procedures rests with line management across the Department. No records are collated centrally regarding how many such procedures are initiated in the Department and could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses he expects to receive assistance from the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme as a result of its recent extension. [20867]

Mr Prisk: An extra 2,000 businesses could benefit from the extra £200 million announced in the emergency Budget in June 2010 for the Enterprise Finance Guarantee, bringing the total able to be assisted during 2010-11 to around 7,000.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much and what proportion of the latest round of the European Regional Development Fund allocations to the UK for the period from 2007 to 2013 remains unspent. [20163]

Mr Prisk: For the period 2007-13 the UK has been allocated €5,410 million (approximately £4,630 million) of European regional development funds under the Convergence and Competitiveness operational programmes. To date, some £740 million has been paid to projects, with some £3,890 million (84%) remaining to be spent. However, well over 50% of the ERDF allocation of £4,630 million has already been contracted to projects. Payments to projects are on target and can be made up until end 2015.

Groceries Supply Code of Practice

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department has taken to introduce a body to monitor and enforce the Groceries Supply Code of Practice. [20412]

Mr Davey: The coalition statement commits the Government to introduce the Groceries Code Adjudicator (GCA). The Government response of 3 August set out how we would take this forward:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-law/docs/competition-matters/10-1011-groceries-supply-code-practice-government-response.pdf

We now have approval to publish a draft Bill in the first session of this Parliament. This will be undertaken as soon as parliamentary time allows.

Higher Education: Costs

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the cost of studying as an *(a)* undergraduate and *(b)* postgraduate at a university in (i) London and (ii) outside London; and if he will make a statement. [19765]

Mr Willetts: The 'Student Income and Expenditure Survey 2007/08', published on 21 April 2009, provided estimates of the expenditure of higher education students attending higher education institutions and further education colleges in England and Wales.

The following table shows the average and median expenditure of full-time undergraduate students according to whether they were studying in London or outside London, and includes a breakdown of living, housing, participation and child care expenses.

The 2007/08 study covered a mixture of students to whom the pre and post-2006/07 student support arrangements applied, thus 61% of the full-time student-sample were subject to variable fees of up to £3,225, and 39% were under the previous arrangements.

Differing maintenance loan levels apply for students according to whether they live in London or elsewhere, but these also take account of whether the individual lives independently, or at home with their parents.

Expenditure of full-time undergraduate students, by whether living in London or elsewhere

£

		Living in London	*Living elsewhere*
Living costs[1]	Mean	6,663	6,469
	Median	5,358	5,279
	Standard error[2]	424	242
Housing costs[1]	Mean	2,446	2,457
	Median	2,208	2,161
	Standard error[2]	183	134
Participation costs[3]	Mean	3,271	3,132
	Median	3,330	3,235
	Standard error[2]	145	49
Spending on children[1]	Mean	115	158
	Median	—	—
	Standard error[2]	42	23
Estimated total expenditure[1]	Mean	12,495	12,216
	Median	11,395	10,770
	Standard error[2]	615	280
Unweighted count	—	228	1,565

[1] Figures adjusted for joint financial responsibility where relevant.
[2] The standard error measures the extent to which we expect the sample mean can differ from the population mean. Plus or minus two standard errors usually provides a 95% confidence limit: that is, we can be 95% confident that the 'true' value lies within that range.
[3] Participation costs include spending on tuition fees, travel to/from university, expenditure on books and equipment, and study related child care. *Base:* All English-domiciled students.
Source:
NatCen/IES SIES 2007/08.

Imports: Health Foods

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent estimate he has made of the monetary value of imports of food supplements and other natural health products from the Channel Islands in the most recent period for which figures are available. [20831]

Mr Davey: This information is not available. For the purposes of the Overseas Trade Statistics, "UK" is defined as Great Britain, Northern Ireland, the Isle of Man, the Channel Islands and the UK part of the Continental Shelf, so the Overseas Trade Statistics do not cover trade between these places.

Local Enterprise Partnerships

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what guidance his Department has issued to local authorities on the contiguity of proposed local enterprise partnership areas with county boundaries. [20030]

Mr Prisk: No specific guidance has been issued to local authorities on the contiguity of proposed local enterprise partnership areas with county boundaries. In the joint letter that my right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government sent to local authorities and businesses on 29 June they expressed concerns that some local and regional boundaries do not reflect functional economic areas. The letter encouraged partnerships to better reflect the natural economic geography of the areas they serve and hence to cover real functional economic and travel to work areas.

Manufacturing Industry

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent steps his Department has taken to support manufacturing industry in the *(a)* short term and *(b)* long term. [18291]

Mr Prisk: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 869W.

Mature Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students who were 30 years of age or older at the time of admission started university undergraduate courses in each of the last 10 years. [19761]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information for the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Undergraduate entrants[1] aged 30 and over: UK Higher Education Institutions[2] academic years 1999/2000 to 2008/09

	Entrants aged 30 and over	
Academic year	Full-time	Part-time
1999/2000	31,335	114,665
2000/01	32,190	113,555
2001/02	35,735	128,905
2002/03	37,390	133,905
2003/04	39,315	136,405
2004/05	38,610	133,475
2005/06	39,195	132,430
2006/07	36,570	125,545
2007/08	36,500	123,025
2008/09	37,810	120,645

[1] Covers entrants of all domiciles to both full-time and part-time courses.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a snapshot as at 1 December and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Members: Correspondence

Sir Gerald Kaufman: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to reply to the letter dated 1 June 2010 from the right hon. Member for Manchester, Gorton (Sir Gerald Kaufman), with regard to Eleanor Massey, transferred from the Department for Work and Pensions. [11967]

Mr Davey: I apologise for the delay in replying. I will reply to the right hon. Gentleman as soon as possible.

Public Expenditure

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has identified the 500MHz of public sector spectrum below 5GHz which is to be released over the next 10 years as indicated in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [20704]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are keen that there is release of public sector spectrum in order to meet demands from the private sector. Work to identify suitable spectrum for release is now under way, but 180 MHz spectrum has already been identified from within the Ministry of Defence (MOD) holdings.

Regional Development Agencies: Assets

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* land assets and *(b)* buildings each regional development agency has in freehold ownership. [15810]

Mr Prisk: I will place a list of the eight RDAs' (excluding London) freehold land and property assets in the Libraries of the House.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many students have paid all or part of their tuition fees from their own funds in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [19763]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the following table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

English domiciled enrolments[1] by major source of tuition fees[2]: UK Higher Education Institutions academic year 2004/05 to 2008/09

	No award or financial backing		Mix of student and SLC	
Academic year	Full-time	Part-time	Full-time	Part-time
2004/05	441,900	362,435	75,180	20,855
2005/06	446,025	363,290	70,600	24,440
2006/07	343,695	355,465	41,430	30,790
2007/08	309,015	336,770	60,330	35,575
2008/09	271,605	340,345	40,020	40,290

[1] Covers enrolments to all levels and modes of study.

[2] Excludes those with unknown/missing tuition fee information. In 2008/09 16,005 students had missing information.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Students: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate his Department has made of the effect on the number of students entering *(a)* teacher training, *(b)* medical degree courses and *(c)* the police force of the implementation of the Browne Review proposals; and if he will make a statement. [19767]

Mr Willetts: We have endorsed the broad thrust of Lord Browne's proposals because they would place the funding of higher education on a sustainable basis; would protect students from low income backgrounds and low earning graduates; and because those students who benefit most in financial terms from their higher education would contribute most to the costs. Lord Browne also recommended that students need clearer information about the employment outcomes, including future earnings, of particular courses. Taken together, we would expect these recommendations to support appropriate levels of recruitment to graduate entry professions like teaching and medicine. We are considering our detailed response to Lord Browne's recommendations and will respond shortly.

TRANSPORT

Rail Fare Increases

15. **Mr Virendra Sharma:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on the effects of rail fare increases on the mobility of people seeking work. [19926]

Mrs Villiers: The Secretary of State for Transport has not discussed this specific subject with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions. However, the rail fare increases were part of the overall CSR package which received general Cabinet scrutiny and approval.

Human Trafficking: Port Security

16. **Mr Bone:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will have discussions with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on an increase in security provision at ports for the purpose of preventing human trafficking. [19927]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport contributes to the wider cross-Government effort to tackle organised crime at UK ports. The Ports Minister, my hon. Friend the Member for Hemel Hempstead (Mike Penning), would be happy to have discussions on this issue with the Home Office.

M4 Bus Lane

17. **Mr Offord:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the future of the M4 bus lane; and if he will make a statement. [19928]

Mr Philip Hammond: We have received correspondence from both hon. Members and members of the public.

It is our intention to remove the bus lane, initially for a trail period from December this year until the Olympic games and thereafter on a permanent basis, subject to the outcome of the trial and consultation.

In opening the M4 bus lane to all traffic, we are looking to ensure that the road capacity which all taxpayers have contributed to paying for is efficiently used and accessible to all.

Motorways and Major Trunk Roads Programme

18. **Lilian Greenwood:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans the Highways Agency has for the future of its Motorways and Major Trunk Roads programme. [19929]

Mr Philip Hammond: I refer the hon. Lady to my oral statement "Investment in Highways and Local Transport Schemes" made to the House on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79 and the supporting details entitled "Investment in Highways Transport Schemes", placed in the Library of the House on the same day.

Mersey Gateway Bridge Scheme

19. **Derek Twigg:** To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to make a decision on the statutory orders sought by Halton Borough Council in respect of the Mersey Gateway Bridge scheme. [19931]

Norman Baker: We will not be able to issue decisions immediately on the statutory orders, as there is still some work to be done to ensure that our decisions on these complex orders are thorough and robust. We also need to ensure, in liaison with the Department for Communities and Local Government, that decisions issue at the same time on all 10 orders and planning consents relating to the Mersey Gateway Project. We will, however, make every effort to conclude the statutory processes as soon as is reasonably possible.

Airports: Public Lavatories

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward proposals to require commercial passenger airlines to provide free lavatory facilities for passengers on all international flights using UK airports. [20888]

Mrs Villiers: The Government do not currently have any proposals to introduce regulation requiring airlines to provide free toilet facilities for passengers on international flights. We are not aware of any airlines which levy additional charges for the use of such facilities.

Alloy Wheels

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will bring forward legislative proposals to introduce a legal weight limit for alloy wheels fitted to vehicles used on public roads in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [17447]

Mike Penning: The Department for Transport has no plans to introduce a legal weight limit (minimum or maximum) for alloy wheels fitted to vehicles used on public roads in the UK.

Recently a new United Nations Economic Commission for Europe Regulation has been agreed for the test methods and performance of replacement light vehicle alloy wheels. No decision has been made on whether to implement it in the UK, or across Europe.

Existing legislation already requires new products, including wheels, which are placed on the market to be safe and fit for purpose. Action can be taken if a product is found to be unsafe.

Blue Badge Scheme

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future of the blue badge scheme; and if he will make a statement. [16892]

Norman Baker: The Government are reviewing the existing Blue Badge scheme and considering options for reform. There will be an announcement about the future of the scheme made shortly.

Bus Services: Concessions

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received on the eligibility of higher rate taxpayers for concessionary bus passes. [18085]

Norman Baker: The Secretary of State has recently received many representations regarding concessionary travel, mainly through correspondence, on a number of issues.

Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to increase the standard of highway authority delivery of cycle-friendly planning and design. [20187]

Norman Baker: Local highway authorities are responsible for the planning, design and delivery of cycle-friendly infrastructure within their areas. To assist them in this, the Department for Transport has published a considerable amount of evidence-based technical advice on good practice in the design and provision of cycle infrastructure, including 'Local Transport Note 2/08 Cycle Infrastructure Design, Manual for Streets and Manual for Streets 2':

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/ltnotes/ltn208.pdf

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets/pdfmanforstreets.pdf

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/sustainable/manforstreets/

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what research his Department *(a)* is undertaking and *(b)* plans to undertake on measures to improve cyclists' safety. [20189]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport commissioned a research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues in August 2008 which has examined the following topics:

Road user safety and cycling data

Cycling infrastructure

Attitudes and behaviours

Bicycle helmets.

To date the Department has published three reports:

"Collisions involving cyclists on Britain's roads: Establishing the causes" (December 2009)

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/ppr445.pdf

"The potential for cycle helmets to prevent injury: A review of the evidence" (December 2009)

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/ppr446.pdf

"Cycling, safety and sharing the road: Qualitative research with cyclists and other road users" (September 2010)

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/researchreport/

A report on infrastructure and cycle safety is in progress.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what evidence his Department holds on the effect of helmet promotion campaigns on the level of cycle use. [20190]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport commissioned a research project looking at a range of road safety and cycling issues in August 2008. This includes a strand of research focussing on cycle helmets. An initial review of the literature on road safety and cycling revealed a lack of robust and reliable evidence on the effect of cycle helmets on the behaviour of cyclists and other road users. An exploration of road users' views on possible interventions to improve driver and rider behaviour was undertaken within the qualitative research task. The report for this work was published in September 2010 and is available via the Department's website.

"Cycling, safety and sharing the road: Qualitative research with cyclists and other road users" (September 2010):

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme1/researchreport/

Cycling: Finance

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his policy is on funding programmes delivered by Cycling England; and if he will make a statement. [17102]

Norman Baker: Cycling England was set up as the independent expert body to advise on the promotion of cycling. The Government believe that this work can now be better delivered within the Department for Transport through the newly announced Local Sustainable Transport Fund, so Cycling England is to be wound up at the end of this financial year.

Bikeability—cycle proficiency for the 21st Century—will be supported for the remainder of this Parliament (i.e. until 2015) from the Local Sustainable Transport Fund. We will be announcing further details about this shortly. We want arrangements in place so that cycle training for children can be delivered in spring and summer 2011.

Cycling England still has a programme of work to deliver for the remainder of this financial year and funding for this is not affected.

DfT is also considering establishing an expert panel on wider sustainable travel which would promote cycling as part of the wider green agenda.

Cycling: Railways

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what plans he has to provide financial support to *(a)* train operating companies and *(b)* Network Rail for the integration of cycling and rail travel after April 2011; [20191]

(2) if he will take steps to require rail franchisees to provide space for cycles *(a)* at railway stations and *(b)* on new or refurbished rolling stock; [20192]

(3) if he will take steps to require *(a)* rail franchisees and *(b)* Network Rail to (i) consult on and (ii) monitor the effectiveness of measures to combine cycling and rail travel. [20193]

Mrs Villiers: The Government recognise the importance of investing in station improvements and is committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

We will grant longer rail franchises in order to give train operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want including better cycle facilities at stations. We will also be considering options to alter the balance of responsibility for stations between Network Rail and the train operators.

It is a commercial consideration for the individual train operating companies to provide storage space for cycles on their trains. It is not for the Department to dictate how many cycle spaces an operator should provide but we do encourage train operators to accommodate folding bicycles at all times.

The Station Travel Plan pilot scheme being run by the rail industry aims to encourage passengers to travel to and from the station by more sustainable means. It is considering the provision of cycle storage facilities at stations and safe cycle routes to stations.

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in his Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18721]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport was formed on 29 May 2002 comprising a central Department and seven agencies. The Department for Transport does not keep disciplinary records for the years prior to 2006 in accordance with Data Protection Act. The information reported is as follows:

				(d) Dismissed for matters relating to their:	
	(a) Subject to disciplinary action	*(b) Removed from post*[1, 4]	*(c) Transferred to another position*[4]	*(i) Discipline record*[3]	*(ii) Performance*
2010	116	0	1	16	11
2009	221	6	6	32	9
2008	[2]195	[2]5	[2]2	21	5
2007	[2]302	[2]2	[2]0	26	0
2006	[2]66	[2]0	[2]0	14	1

[1] Highways Agency does not have information about staff who have been removed from their post as a consequence of disciplinary action.

[2] Maritime and Coastguard Agency does not keep records of spent disciplinary penalties. For the period in question they are only able to report on disciplinary penalties which have led to a dismissal. Figures reflecting a number of disciplinary penalties that are still in force are for 2009 and 2010 to date only.

[3] Vehicle and Operator Services Agency combined their answers for (d) (i) and (d) (ii) as more detailed information can be provided only at disproportionate cost. The information is therefore reflected in (d) (i).

[4] Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency is unable to provide information about the number of officials who have been removed from post or transferred to another position due to disproportionate cost. Their information therefore is recorded in (a), (d) (i) and (d) (ii) only.

There are over 18,000 people employed by the Department for Transport and its agencies.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, (j) 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18723]

Norman Baker: I am afraid that the information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The Department reports sickness absence figures to the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis and update our results on the external website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/staff/sickabsence

Driving Tests: Qualifications

Mr Burley: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment his Department has made of the effectiveness of the Driver Certificate of Professional Competence. [19597]

Mike Penning: The Driver Certificate of Professional Competence (Driver CPC) was introduced in September 2008 for coach and bus drivers, and September 2009 for lorry drivers to implement the requirements of EU Directive 2003/59/EC. It is too early yet to make any assessment of the scheme's effectiveness.

EU Law

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department and its non-departmental public bodies of compliance with *(a)* domestic, *(b)* European and *(c)* other international human rights requirements in each year since 1997; and if he will make a statement. [18718]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not collate information on the costs of compliance with human rights requirements or the benefits that accrue. The Department takes account of the domestic and international human rights framework in developing all its policies and practices, as it does other relevant legal obligations; an accurate estimate of the total cost of compliance with human rights obligations could not be made without incurring disproportionate cost.

First Great Western: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) whether funding for the electrification of the Great Western Line will be allocated during the Spending Review period; [20364]

(2) what timetable has been set for the completion of the electrification of the Great Western Line. [20365]

Mrs Villiers: We are currently considering revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme. An announcement on the electrification of the Great Western Main Line will be made in light of the Government's final decision on that programme.

Network Rail: Scotland

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the expenditure of Network Rail was in Scotland in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [20223]

Mrs Villiers: In 2009-10, Network Rail's total expenditure in Scotland was £589 million.

Ports

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what steps his Department is taking to increase the international economic competitiveness of domestic ports. [19831]

Mike Penning: UK ports have a strong record of operating competitively both domestically and internationally. Our policy is to enable ports to build on this success by avoiding the creation of any unnecessary burdens or impediments to fair competition.

The Government's National Infrastructure Plan, published on 25 October, sets out the wider context for infrastructure to support economic investment and our international competitiveness.

Railways: North West

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what rail improvements he plans to fund in *(a)* Lancashire and *(b)* the North West during the comprehensive spending review period. [20038]

Mrs Villiers: We are funding a range of rail improvements across Lancashire and the North West. These include:

The routes between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool will be electrified.

Power supplies on the West Coast Main Line will be upgraded to support the running of more services.

Some platforms will be lengthened where necessary to accommodate patronage growth.

We are investing to improve line speeds on the Liverpool-Manchester-Leeds route.

North West stations have been highlighted for improvement through the National Stations Improvement and Access For All programmes.

In Manchester, we are providing funding for the extension of Metrolink. In addition to work under way, a further £170 million extension plan was announced in July.

A further announcement on investment in rail will be made shortly.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what rail electrification schemes in the North West his Department plans to fund during the Comprehensive Spending Review period; [20579]

(2) what timetable his Department has set for the completion of rail electrification work between Liverpool and Manchester. [20580]

Mrs Villiers: On 20 October, the Chancellor announced that electrification of the lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool would go ahead. We are working with Network Rail to determine the timetable for the completion of these schemes, and will make an announcement in due course.

Road Safety: Finance

Steve McCabe: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department *(a)* has allocated and *(b)* plans to allocate to road safety in the financial year 2010-11; and how much was allocated in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [17159]

Mike Penning: The UK has the safest roads in Europe and the Government wish to ensure that we maintain that position. However, the Government have made clear that their urgent priority is to tackle the UK's record deficit in order to restore confidence in our economy and support the recovery. As a contribution to the in-year spending reductions as part of our programme to address the record deficit, we have reduced the planned level of road safety grant in 2010-11. At the same time, local authorities were given greater freedom and flexibility in the management of their finances and the use of grant funding streams. Therefore, the fact that this grant has been reduced does not mean that the Government necessarily expect local authorities to reduce their road safety spending by a similar proportion. It is for local authorities and local communities to determine the priorities for their areas. The Department currently forecasts allocating £76.5 million towards dedicated road safety programmes and administration in 2010-11. It allocated £145.0 million in 2008/09 and £143.1 million in 2009-10 towards comparable activities.

These totals include the road safety funding stream in area-based grant and the specific road safety grant. Other items included are expenditure on THINK! campaigns, road safety research and statistics, vehicle safety and related administration.

These totals do not include expenditure by the Department's agencies, nor do they include funding support for other organisations used in part for, but not dedicated to, road safety (for example the integrated transport funding for local authorities and the block grant for Transport for London).

Thameslink

Gavin Shuker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) by what date he expects 24 trains an hour to be running on the Thameslink route between Kings Cross and Blackfriars; [19996]

(2) to which phases of the Thameslink programme his Department has not committed funding; [19997]

(3) by what date he expects the Thameslink infrastructure and rolling stock programme to have been completed; [19998]

(4) by what date he expects delivery of the last unit of 12-carriage Thameslink rolling stock to have been completed; [19999]

(5) what capital expenditure he plans to allocate to new Thameslink rolling stock from its proposed budgets under the 2010 Spending Review. [20000]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the spending review on 20 October, the Government are still finalising their position regarding a number of rail projects, including Thameslink. An announcement is expected to be made shortly.

Thameslink: Rolling Stock

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable has been set for purchasing new rolling stock for the Thameslink upgrade. [20363]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the spending review on the 20 October, the Government are still finalising their position regarding a number of rail projects, including Thameslink. An announcement will be made shortly.

Transport: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to invite bids for funding for the Local Sustainable Transport Fund; and if he will make a statement. [20515]

Norman Baker: We intend to invite bids to the Local Sustainable Transport Fund later in the year. The Department for Transport will at that stage publish guidance on the bidding process and set out an indicative timetable for the submission and assessment of bids.

EDUCATION

Academies

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education for what reasons academies are not required to *(a)* have regard to the local Children and Young People Plan, *(b)* promote the well-being of pupils and *(c)* promote community cohesion. [12271]

Mr Gibb: Academies are currently required to have regard to the Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) in the same way as maintained schools. However, the Government intend—subject to parliamentary approval—to withdraw the regulations requiring CYPPs to be prepared.

Academies have a very important role in promoting the well-being of their pupils and we trust the governors to exercise their functions with the aim of promoting their pupils' well-being, responding to local circumstances and the wishes of their parents.

Finally, in relation to community cohesion, one of the conditions of grant in the model Funding Agreement is that the Academy will be

> "at the heart of its community, promoting community cohesion and sharing facilities with other schools and the wider community".

Academies are therefore required to promote community cohesion as part of their Funding Agreement which includes the right of the Secretary of State to call for information on their outreach work with other schools and the local community.

Academies: Finance

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding his Department has provided per pupil to schools with academy status in each local authority area in England in each of the last five years. [12673]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2010]*: The amount of funding per pupil paid to academies in each relevant local authority area for academic years from 2005/06 to 2009/10 is shown in the table. Since April 2010, payment has been made by the Young People's Learning Agency on behalf of the Secretary of State. It does not include start-up grants (since these would distort comparisons), nor standards fund grants, which for many academies in the years in question were paid by local authorities.

Local authority name order

£

		Funding per pupil for academic year				
LA name	*Academy name*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Barnet	London Academy	5,111	5,430	5,879	6,138	6,585
Barnet	Wren Academy	—	—	—	11,086	7,974
Barnsley	The Barnsley Academy	—	5,645	5,868	5,833	5,986
Bexley	Haberdashers' Aske's Crayford Academy	—	—	—	—	5,904
Bexley	Harris Academy Falconwood	—	—	—	5,152	5,341
Bexley	The Business Academy Bexley	4,516	4,817	5,267	5,402	5,402
Birmingham	Heartlands Academy	—	—	—	—	6,978
Birmingham	North Birmingham Academy	—	—	—	—	6,834
Birmingham	Shenley Academy	—	—	—	—	7,020

Local authority name order

						£
			Funding per pupil for academic year			
LA name	*Academy name*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Birmingham	St Alban's Academy	—	—	—	—	7,225
Blackburn with Darwen	Darwen Aldridge Community Academy	—	—	—	6,204	6,067
Bolton	Essa Academy	—	—	—	5,347	6,065
Bolton	St Catherine's Academy	—	—	—	—	5,728
Bradford	Appleton Academy	—	—	—	—	5,585
Bradford	Bradford Academy	—	—	5,995	6,007	6,054
Bradford	Dixon's Academy	4,819	5,125	5,318	5,503	5,692
Bradford	Dixons Allerton Academy	—	—	—	—	5,785
Brent	Ark Academy	—	—	—	12,765	8,524
Brent	Capital City Academy	5,239	5,572	6,075	6,006	6,125
Brent	The Crest Boys' Academy	—	—	—	—	6,540
Brent	The Crest Girls' Academy	—	—	—	—	6,523
Buckinghamshire	The Aylesbury Vale Academy	—	—	—	—	5,111
Central Bedfordshire	All Saints Academy	—	—	—	—	6,193
Cheshire West and Chester	University of Chester Church of England Academy	—	—	—	—	5,776
City of Bristol	Bristol Cathedral School Academy	—	—	—	5,416	5,527
City of Bristol	Bristol Metropolitan Academy	—	—	—	—	6,751
City of Bristol	Colston Girls' School	—	—	—	5,120	5,304
City of Bristol	Merchants Academy Withywood	—	—	—	5,578	5,603
City of Bristol	Oasis Academy Brightstowe	—	—	—	7,017	6,845
City of Bristol	Oasis Academy Bristol	—	—	—	6,646	6,294
City of Bristol	The Bristol Brunel Academy	—	—	5,452	5,389	5,455
City of Bristol	The City Academy Bristol	4,771	5,149	5,811	6,117	6,114
Coventry	Grace Academy Coventry	—	—	—	6,115	5,887
Croydon	Harris Academy at South Norwood	—	—	5,889	5,636	6,082
Croydon	Harris Academy Purley	—	—	—	—	6,361
Croydon	Harris City Academy Crystal Palace	—	—	6,047	6,243	6,561
Croydon	Oasis Academy Coulsdon	—	—	—	5,788	5,671
Croydon	Oasis Academy Shirley Park	—	—	—	—	5,749
Cumbria	Furness Academy	—	—	—	—	5,574
Cumbria	Richard Rose Central Academy	—	—	—	5,272	5,199
Cumbria	Richard Rose Morton Academy	—	—	—	4,831	4,600
Cumbria	West Lakes Academy	—	—	—	5,075	5,133
Darlington	St Aidan's CE Academy	—	—	5,697	6,117	6,534
Derby City	Landau Forte Academy	—	5,342	5,577	5,707	5,925
Doncaster	De Warenne Academy	—	—	—	—	6,057
Doncaster	Outwood Academy Adwick	—	—	—	—	5,321
Doncaster	Trinity Academy	4,398	4,597	5,034	5,323	5,452
Ealing	West London Academy	5,081	5,334	5,686	5,780	6,091
Enfield	Oasis Academy Enfield	—	—	7,284	6,793	6,329
Enfield	Oasis Academy Hadley	—	—	—	—	6,674
Essex	Clacton Coastal Academy	—	—	—	—	6,043
Essex	Greensward Academy	—	—	—	4,730	4,948
Essex	Maltings Academy	—	—	—	5,005	5,191
Essex	New Rickstones Academy	—	—	—	4,918	5,266
Essex	The Basildon Lower Academy	—	—	—	—	5,603
Essex	The Basildon Upper Academy	—	—	—	—	6,144
Greenwich	St Paul's Academy	5,052	5,122	5,251	5,696	5,929
Hackney	Mossbourne Community Academy	6,166	6,311	6,541	7,667	7,503
Hackney	The Bridge Academy	—	—	8,125	8,625	7,946
Hackney	The City Academy Hackney[1]	—	—	—	—	10,182
Hackney	The Petchey Academy	—	7,7[illegible]	7,187	7,807	7,584
Hammersmith and Fulham	Burlington Danes Academy	—	5,88[illegible]	6,176	6,641	6,971
Haringey	Greig City Academy	5,476	6,097	6,477	6,582	6,548
Herefordshire	The Hereford Academy	—	—	—	5,029	4,946
Herefordshire	The Steiner Academy Hereford	—	—	—	4,251	4,313
Hertfordshire	Francis Combe Academy	—	—	—	—	5,569
Hertfordshire	The Bushey Academy	—	—	—	—	6,660
Hillingdon	Stockley Academy	5,134	5,579	5,791	5,795	6,100
Hillingdon	The Harefield Academy	5,275	5,413	5,590	5,950	6,171
Islington	City of London Academy Islington	—	—	—	7,374	7,038
Islington	St Mary Magdalene Academy	—	—	7,410	7,416	7,010
Kensington and Chelsea	The Chelsea Science Academy[1]	—	—	—	—	9,926

Local authority name order

£

LA name	*Academy name*	*Funding per pupil for academic year:* 2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09	2009/10
Kent	Cornwallis Academy	—	—	4,714	4,690	4,931
Kent	Folkestone Academy	—	—	5,836	5,612	5,367
Kent	Longfield Academy	—	—	—	5,898	5,819
Kent	Marsh Academy	—	—	4,875	5,012	5,292
Kent	New Line Learning Academy	—	—	5,610	5,599	6,338
Kent	Skinners Kent Academy	—	—	—	—	7,261
Kent	Spires Academy	—	—	6,438	6,043	6,205
Kent	The Isle of Sheppey Academy	—	—	—	—	5,413
Kent	The Leigh Technology Academy	—	—	5,615	5,719	6,046
Kent	The Marlowe Academy	5,604	5,467	6,527	6,447	6,936
Kingston Upon Hull	Archbishop Sentamu Academy	—	—	—	5,478	5,572
Kingston Upon Hull	Sirius Academy	—	—	—	—	5,591
Lambeth	Evelyn Grace Academy	—	—	—	8,940	8,253
Lambeth	Lambeth Academy	4,921	6,430	6,676	6,895	7,348
Lancashire	Accrington Academy	—	—	—	5,108	5,155
Lancashire	Fulwood Academy	—	—	—	—	5,194
Leeds	David Young Community Academy	—	5,182	5,501	5,963	6,222
Leeds	Leeds West Academy	—	—	—	—	5,783
Leeds	South Leeds Academy	—	—	—	—	6,590
Leicester City	Samworth Enterprise Academy	—	—	4,862	5,825	6,393
Lewisham	Haberdashers' Aske's Hatcham Academy	5,279	5,490	6,059	6,081	6,423
Lewisham	Haberdashers' Aske's Knights Academy	5,662	5,857	6,689	6,330	6,596
Lewisham	St Matthew Academy	—	—	6,322	6,302	6,410
Lincolnshire	St George's Academy	—	—	—	—	4,886
Lincolnshire	The Priory City of Lincoln Academy	—	—	—	5,086	5,137
Lincolnshire	The Priory LSST Academy	—	—	—	4,766	4,887
Lincolnshire	The Priory Witham Academy	—	—	—	5,322	5,378
Lincolnshire	Trent Valley Academy	—	—	—	5,277	5,092
Liverpool	Academy of St Francis of Assisi	5,022	5,253	5,431	5,619	5,847
Liverpool	North Liverpool Academy	—	5,395	5,384	5,540	5,592
Liverpool	The Belvedere Academy	—	—	5,500	5,460	5,804
Luton	Barnfield South Academy	—	—	5,209	5,551	5,858
Luton	Barnfield West Academy	—	—	5,277	5,494	5,738
Manchester	Manchester Academy	3,550	4,671	5,779	5,809	5,824
Manchester	Manchester Creative and Media Academy (Boys)	—	—	—	—	6,712
Manchester	Manchester Creative and Media Academy (Girls)	—	—	—	—	6,129
Manchester	Manchester Enterprise Academy	—	—	—	—	7,280
Manchester	The Manchester Health Academy	—	—	—	—	9,328
Manchester	William Hulme Grammar School	—	—	4,639	5,151	5,400
Medway	Strood Academy	—	—	—	—	5,304
Merton	Harris Academy Merton	—	5,365	5,531	5,785	5,771
Merton	St Mark's Church of England Academy	—	5,261	5,482	5,811	5,898
Middlesbrough	Macmillan Academy	4,816	5,019	5,385	5,603	6,077
Middlesbrough	The King's Academy	4,656	5,260	6,242	6,388	6,743
Middlesbrough	Unity Academy	5,221	5,789	6,283	7,372	7,122
Milton Keynes	Milton Keynes Academy	—	—	—	—	5,920
N E Lincolnshire	Havelock Academy	—	—	5,219	5,367	5,461
N E Lincolnshire	Oasis Academy Immingham	—	—	5,139	5,355	5,539
N E Lincolnshire	Oasis Academy Wintringham	—	—	5,417	5,464	5,631
Newcastle Upon Tyne	Excelsior Academy	—	—	—	5,730	6,254
Norfolk	City Academy Norwich	—	—	—	—	6,843
Norfolk	The Open Academy	—	—	—	6,889	5,416
North Lincolnshire	St Lawrence Academy	—	—	—	4,940	4,909
Northamptonshire	Brooke Weston Academy	—	—	—	6,163	6,260
Northamptonshire	Corby Business Academy	—	—	—	6,315	6,149
Northamptonshire	Kettering Buccleuch Academy	—	—	—	—	4,974
Northamptonshire	Kettering Science Academy	—	—	—	—	4,924
Northamptonshire	Northampton Academy	4,345	4,468	4,730	4,914	5,155
Northumberland	Bede Academy	—	—	—	—	4,225
Northumberland	Northumberland CE Academy	—	—	—	—	5,293
Nottingham City	Djanogly City Academy	5,051	5,189	5,641	5,864	6,174
Nottingham City	Nottingham Academy	—	—	—	—	5,572
Nottingham City	Nottingham University Samworth Academy	—	—	—	—	6,499

Local authority name order

						£
		Funding per pupil for academic year:				
LA name	*Academy name*	*2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Nottingham City	The Bulwell Academy	—	—	—	—	6,140
Nottinghamshire	Samworth Church Academy	—	—	—	5,546	5,480
Oxfordshire	North Oxfordshire Academy	—	—	5,795	5,637	5,642
Oxfordshire	The Oxford Academy	—	—	—	6,551	6,635
Peterborough	Ormiston Bushfield Academy	—	—	—	—	6,116
Peterborough	Thomas Deacon Academy	—	—	4,659	4,954	5,439
Portsmouth	Charter Academy	—	—	—	—	8,236
Reading	John Madejski Academy	—	5,621	5,663	5,766	6,317
Rochdale	St Anne's Academy	—	—	6,021	5,626	5,907
Rotherham	Maltby Academy	—	—	—	—	5,291
Salford	Oasis Academy Media City: UK Salford	—	—	—	5,729	5,717
Salford	Salford Academy	5,187	4,939	6,095	6,435	6,594
Sandwell	George Salter Collegiate Academy	—	—	5,668	5,668	5,763
Sandwell	Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy	—	—	—	—	5,747
Sandwell	Q3 Academy	—	—	—	5,235	4,923
Sandwell	RSA Academy at Tipton	—	—	—	5,667	5,435
Sandwell	Sandwell Academy	—	6,307	5,949	5,498	5,543
Sandwell	Shireland Collegiate Academy	—	—	6,264	6,284	6,000
Sheffield	Parkwood Academy	—	—	—	—	6,271
Sheffield	Sheffield Park Academy	—	4,804	4,928	5,334	5,540
Sheffield	Sheffield Springs Academy	—	4,846	4,946	5,143	5,281
Slough	Langley Academy	—	—	—	6,652	6,168
Solihull	Grace Academy Solihull	—	4,549	4,816	5,201	5,243
Solihull	Kingshurst Academy	—	—	—	6,193	6,140
Solihull	Park Hall Academy	—	—	—	—	5,185
South Gloucestershire	John Cabot Academy	—	—	6,008	6,066	6,069
South Gloucestershire	The Ridings' Federation Winterbourne International Academy	—	—	—	—	4,913
South Gloucestershire	The Ridings' Federation Yate International Academy	—	—	—	—	5,492
Southampton	Oasis Academy Lords Hill	—	—	—	6,028	6,187
Southampton	Oasis Academy Mayfield	—	—	—	5,674	5,827
Southwark	Bacon's College	—	—	7,431	8,170	8,249
Southwark	City of London Academy	6,370	6,391	6,215	7,087	7,773
Southwark	Harris Academy at Peckham	6,257	6,761	6,710	7,672	7,861
Southwark	Harris Academy Bermondsey	—	6,351	6,617	7,470	8,158
Southwark	Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich[1]	—	—	—	—	11,781
Southwark	Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	—	6,300	6,339	7,174	7,784
Southwark	St Michael and All Angels Church of England Academy	—	—	6,620	7,115	7,358
Southwark	The Globe Academy	—	—	—	7,026	7,257
Southwark	Walworth Academy	—	—	6,326	7,798	8,067
Stockport	Stockport Academy	—	—	5,073	5,358	5,748
Sunderland	Academy 360	—	—	—	5,571	5,346
Sunderland	Castle View Enterprise Academy	—	—	—	—	5,649
Sunderland	Red House Academy	—	—	—	—	6,192
Swindon	Swindon Academy	—	—	4,933	4,821	5,080
Tameside	Droylsden Academy	—	—	—	—	5,573
Tameside	New Charter Academy	—	—	—	4,941	5,265
Telford and Wrekin	Abraham Darby Academy	—	—	—	5,463	5,382
Telford and Wrekin	Madeley Academy	—	4,929	5,058	5,079	5,141
Thurrock	Ormiston Park Academy	—	—	—	—	6,780
Thurrock	The Gateway Academy	—	5,720	5,651	5,834	5,804
Wakefield	Outwood Grange Academy	—	—	—	—	5,310
Walsall	Grace Academy Darlaston	—	—	—	—	5,427
Walsall	Shelfield Community Academy	—	—	—	4,775	5,216
Walsall	Walsall Academy	4,530	4,662	4,697	4,991	5,308
Waltham Forest	Walthamstow Academy	—	5,362	5,782	6,015	6,080
Wandsworth	Ashcroft Technology Academy	—	—	7,423	7,442	7,837
West Sussex	Shoreham Academy	—	—	—	—	5,057
West Sussex	The Littlehampton Academy	—	—	—	—	5,165
West Sussex	The Midhurst Rother College	—	—	—	4,958	5,315
West Sussex	The Sir Robert Woodard Academy	—	—	—	—	5,234

Local authority name order

£

LA name	*Academy name*	*Funding per pupil for academic year:* *2005/06*	*2006/07*	*2007/08*	*2008/09*	*2009/10*
Westminster	King Solomon Academy	—	—	6,530	6,737	8,276
Westminster	Paddington Academy	—	6,294	7,133	7,282	7,732
Westminster	Pimlico Academy	—	—	—	6,839	8,252
Westminster	Westminster Academy	—	6,097	6,860	6,593	8,533
Wiltshire	Wellington Academy	—	—	—	—	5,506
Wirral	Birkenhead High School Academy	—	—	—	—	4,870
Wolverhampton	South Wolverhampton and Bilston Academy	—	—	—	—	7,600
Worcestershire	Tudor Grange Academy	—	—	—	—	5,543

[1] The high funding per pupil for City Academy Hackney, Chelsea Science Academy and Harris Boys Academy Southwark in 2009/10 is due to their opening with only Year 7 pupils.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what arrangements exist for academy schools to borrow against future income for the purposes of *(a)* expansion, *(b)* investment in facilities, *(c)* urgent repairs and *(d)* any other purpose; and whether these have changed since 12 May 2010. [15686]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 16 September 2010]*: The ability of an academy to borrow for any purpose is defined by its individual funding agreement. The current model funding agreement provides that an academy may not borrow against funds or other assets provided by the Secretary of State without his permission, and that such permission will be given only in limited circumstances. This has not changed since 12 May 2010.

Such permission has been given for the transfer to academy trusts of existing loans made by local authorities to some "outstanding" maintained schools which have converted under the Academies Act 2010.

Academies: Greater London

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much funding was received from all Government sources by *(a)* the Harris Academy at Peckham, *(b)* the Harris Girls' Academy, East Dulwich, *(c)* the Harris Boys' Academy, East Dulwich, *(d)* the Walworth Academy and *(e)* St Michael and All Angels Academy in each financial year since they became academies. [14160]

Mr Gibb: Payments made to these academies for capital and revenue purposes up to and including 2009-10 are shown in the following table. The payments include those made for feasibility and implementation purposes prior to opening. The capital payments for Walworth and St Michael and All Angels academies include payments made through Partnerships for Schools (PfS) to the local authority for the construction of the academies.

Financial year	*Capital*	*Revenue*
Harris Academy at Peckham—opened 2003		
2001-02	59,520	161,509
2002-03	825,964	556,439
2003-04	5,555,817	4,315,483
2004-05	15,772,972	6,846,809
2005-06	4,744,944	7,352,432
2006-07	860,322	8,330,194
2007-08	—	8,647,116
2008-09	—	9,836,759
2009-10	—	10,723,994
Total	27,819,539	56,770,735
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich—opened 2006		
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	55,019
2006-07	431,107	5,040,419
2007-08	507,262	5,969,627
2008-09	401,337	6,356,083
2009-10	2,634,040	6,868,238
Total	3,974,746	24,289,385
Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich—opened 2009		
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	55,019
2006-07	424,553	415,112
2007-08	647,483	188,249
2008-09	2,707,653	189,181
2009-10	14,178,336	2,800,555
Total	17,958,025	3,648,114
Walworth Academy—opened 2007		
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—
2006-07	—	58,365
2007-08	—	5,752,729
2008-09	284,088	7,854,710
2009-10	—	7,842,458
Total	284,088	21,508,262
St Michael and All Angels Academy—opened 2007		
2001-02	—	—
2002-03	—	—
2003-04	—	—
2004-05	—	—
2005-06	—	—

Financial year	*Capital*	*Revenue*
2006-07	—	351,186
2007-08	136,935	5,149,335
2008-09	177,427	7,294,857
2009-10	—	7,152,254
Total	314,363	19,947,632

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which local authorities he has met to discuss the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme. [11866]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a review of all areas of DfE capital spending. Its purpose is to ensure that future capital investment represents good value for money and strongly supports the Government's ambitions to reduce the deficit, raise standards and tackle disadvantage. While he announced that the Building Schools for the Future programme is ending, this does not mean the end of capital investment by this Department.

To date the Secretary of State has had meetings with Coventry, Bedford borough, Brent and Sandwell local authorities to discuss the cancellation of the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Departmental Responsibilities

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the remit is of the Children's Rights and Participation team in the Health and Well-being Division of his Department; and how many staff were employed in that division in the last 12 months. [17434]

Sarah Teather: The Children's Rights and Participation team currently consist of three full-time and one part-time staff. Its current remit is to promote and support the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in England through Government policy, and to coordinate UK-wide reports on progress to the UN Committee. It oversees activity to support the involvement of children and young people in decision-making centrally and locally, and is the policy sponsor for the Office of the Children's Commissioner for England.

Free Schools

Toby Perkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many of the 16 schools that have been accepted for free school status previously had grant-maintained status. [14581]

Mr Gibb: 16 proposals for free schools have been approved for progression to the business case and plan stage. Of these, none are schools that previously had grant-maintained status.

Members: Correspondence

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to reply to the letter from the hon. Member for St Albans of 21 June 2010, on the Abbey View Nursery. [20047]

Sarah Teather: A response has been sent to the hon. Member's letter on 28 October 2010.

Schools: Buildings

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps have been taken to implement the proposals announced in the written ministerial statement of 16 October 2009, *Official Report*, columns 41-2WS, on auditory standards for school buildings; and if he will make a statement. [14677]

Mr Gibb: In April this year, the Department for Children, Schools and Families and the Department for Communities and Local Government jointly wrote to every Building Control Body in England and Wales, reminding them of the importance of Requirement E4 of the Building Regulations 2000 which covers acoustic standards in schools. The letter advised Building Control Bodies to ask to see the results of any acoustic testing that has been carried out to assess compliance with Requirement E4.

Exeter University Energy and Environment Centre were appointed in December 2009 to evaluate the acoustic environment of six schools and the results of this work will inform any future guidance on acoustics.

An acoustic consultant has been appointed to work on the Space for Personalised Learning pilot projects. Findings will be published on the Spaces for Personalised Learning website:

http://www.space4pl.org/

The Secretary of State for Education launched a review of all schools capital investment on 5 July. The review will look at reform of the requirements on schools including the School Premises Regulations and design requirements. Decisions about future guidance and standards for school buildings are subject to the outcome of this review.

Schools: Repairs and Maintenance

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools were *(a)* rebuilt and *(b)* refurbished between 1997 and May 2010. [14028]

Mr Gibb: Information provided by local authorities in England in the 2007 and 2009 School Building Surveys indicate that since 1997-98 there were:

2,164—new or replacement schools

844—school refurbishments of more than 80% of the floor area

2,004—school refurbishments of between 50 to 80% of the floor area.

These figures include projects that were planned to be completed by 21 August 2011. Information is not readily available on school refurbishments of less than 50% of the floor area and to provide it would incur disproportionate cost. It should be noted that detailed checks on the quality and completeness of the information provided by local authorities in the surveys have not been carried out.

Special Educational Needs

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take in response to the recommendations of Ofsted's report on special educational needs. [R] [19415]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The Government aim to publish a Green Paper on special educational needs and disability later this year. Ofsted's report and the issues that it highlights will be taken into consideration as the Department develops the Green Paper.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of the statementing process for children with special educational needs. [R] [19416]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The Government have made it clear that they want to make the special educational needs system, including the statementing process, less adversarial and bureaucratic and for it to provide a more comprehensive service for families. A Green Paper on special educational needs and disability, which we aim to publish later this year, will set out the Government's vision for the future of special educational needs.

Teachers Pensions

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of pensioners in receipt of a pension from the Teachers' Pension Scheme of more than £50,000 who worked in a school not funded wholly or in part from the public purse immediately before retirement. [18556]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* There are currently 91 pensioners whose employment immediately prior to their retirement was in an independent school and who are in receipt of a pension in excess of £50,000 a year from the Teachers' Pension Scheme.

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools not in receipt of funding from his Department have members who make contributions to the Teachers' Pension Scheme. [18559]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* Membership of the Teachers' Pension Scheme (TPS) is automatically available to teachers in maintained schools, FE establishments, post-1992 universities, free schools and academies. Independent schools can apply for admission to the TPS in respect of their teaching staff. Currently 1,488 independent schools have teachers who are members of the TPS.

Teachers: Armed Forces

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many former service personnel have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been enrolled in the Troops for Teachers programme since its inception; and if he will make a statement. [14700]

Mr Gibb: The Troops to Teachers programme is currently being developed in line with the coalition document's commitment, and we are currently looking at ways in which a wide range of former service personnel can become involved in teaching and with schools. We hope to launch the programme next year.

In the interim, ex-service personnel interested in becoming teachers will continue to be supported by the Transition to Teaching programme and may follow any of the available routes into teaching.

Teachers: Qualifications

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of his Department's guidance to schools regarding the use of unqualified teaching staff covering teacher absences; and if he will make a statement. [13567]

Mr Gibb: Head teachers are responsible for deploying and managing teaching and support staff of the school and allocating particular duties to them in a manner consistent with their conditions of employment and the needs of the school. The Training and Development Agency for schools has issued a range of guidance to schools on best practice in employing and deploying teaching assistance. This can be found at:

http://www.tda.gov.uk/remodelling.aspx

Teachers: Science and Mathematics

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase the number of science and mathematics graduates entering the teaching profession. [13233]

Mr Gibb: The Government accept that there is a continuing need to increase the number of teachers in these subjects and it is our intention to attract more top science and mathematics graduates into the profession in England. We are therefore reviewing the routes into teaching and the incentives offered to well qualified people who want to teach science and mathematics. We have already announced plans to double the number of participants in the successful Teach First scheme so that more schools may benefit from the talents of some of the country's best graduates. Three quarters of Teach First participants teach the most demanding shortage subjects, including mathematics and science.

Young People: Liverpool

Luciana Berger: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he plans to take to support partnership working to raise the attainment of young people in Liverpool Wavertree constituency. [13753]

Mr Gibb: A key principle of this Government is to trust professionals and empower head teachers and their leadership teams to make decisions about the future direction of their schools. We also believe that a local approach is needed to develop partnerships and leadership to meet the needs of all children and young people in the area.

Our immediate priority has been to introduce legislation to allow all maintained schools to benefit from the freedoms and flexibilities of Academy status, as part of a permissive and mixed economy of school provision. The Academies Act 2010 allows more schools to benefit from Academy freedoms to help them innovate and raise standards.

We expect any outstanding schools that convert to Academy status to work in partnership to support other schools, with a direct focus on school improvement and the raising of standards.

A 14-19 Partnership is already in existence in Liverpool to help raise the attainment of young people in the area, including those in Liverpool Wavertree. This partnership is well placed to ensure a coherent strategy to meet local needs.

JUSTICE

Coroners and Justice Act 2009

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice when he plans to implement the provisions of the Coroners and Justice Act 2009. [19695]

Mr Djanogly: In my written statement of 14 October 2010, columns 37-38WS, I set out that I would commence provisions in Part 1 (Coroners) of the Act which would enable operational problems facing coroners to be tackled. This will include making it simpler to transfer cases from one coroner to another, and removing rigid boundary restrictions on where post-mortem examinations may be carried out. The aim is to implement these provisions by April 2012 at the latest. I also set out that provisions requiring the appointment of a chief coroner would either not be implemented or that certain key functions may be transferred to another body. These key functions might include oversight of training for coroners and their staff, and direction that responsibility for a case is transferred either to a judge or to another coroner. The timescale for this transfer of functions will depend on parliamentary progress of both the Public Bodies Bill, under which the office of chief coroner will be abolished, and the subsequent affirmative order which will set out to which body or bodies the chief coroner's powers are to be transferred. It is likely therefore that it will take longer than April 2012 to implement these provisions.

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of offenders issued with a *(a)* Drug Treatment and Testing Order and *(b)* Drug Rehabilitation Requirement in each of the last three years completed that order, having complied with its terms. [19707]

Mr Blunt: 43% of DTTOs and DRRs which terminated in 2007-08 were completed successfully. In 2008-09 the rate was 47%. Outturns for 2009-10 will be published in the coming weeks.

Homicide

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people in England and Wales were convicted of murder between *(a)* 1980 and 1984, *(b)* 1985 and 1994 and *(c)* 1995 and 2005. [18290]

Mr Blunt: Persons found guilty at all courts for murder in England and Wales from 1980 to 2005 are shown in the following table.

Defendants found guilty at all courts for murder[1], England and Wales, 1980 to 2005[2,3]

	Found guilty
1980	169
1981	126
1982	184
1983	132
1984	156
1980-84	767
1985	173
1986	179
1987	166
1988	231
1989	189
1990	180
1991	201
1992	182
1993	211
1994	192
1985-94	1,904
1995	214
1996	257
1997	275
1998	256
1999	252
2000	261
2001	285
2002	324
2003	277
2004	361
2005	394
1995-2005	3,156

[1] Includes offences under Common Law and Offences Against the Person Act 1861, Sections 1, 9 and 10.

[2] The figures given in the table on court proceedings relate to persons for whom these offences were the principal offences for which they were dealt with. When a defendant has been found guilty of two or more offences it is the offence for which the heaviest penalty is imposed. Where the same disposal is imposed for two or more offences, the offence selected is the offence for which the statutory maximum penalty is the most severe.

[3] Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

Source:

Justice Statistics Analytical Services within the Ministry of Justice.

Judges: Public Appointments

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what mechanisms are in place to ensure transparency in respect of judicial appointments; what lists are maintained of judicial candidates; what steps are taken to inform applicants of their position on those lists; and on what criteria applications for judicial posts are determined. [20008]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Recommendations for judicial appointments are made to me (as Lord Chancellor) by the independent Judicial Appointments Commission (JAC) for England and Wales. The JAC selects candidates for judicial office on merit, through fair and open competition, from the widest range of eligible candidates. The JAC selects candidates either for immediate appointment, or when requested to do so by the Ministry of Justice under section 94 of the Constitutional Reform Act 2005 (CRA), for future vacancies. All selection exercises are publicly advertised.

The JAC maintains a database of candidate applications. These are used for the administration of the selection process, quality assurance and statistical and research purposes. If the JAC receives a request under section 94 of the CRA to select candidates for future vacancies, it maintains a record of such candidates.

No steps are taken to inform applicants of their position. Where candidates are considered for a vacancy request made under section 94 of the CRA they are informed if they are considered to be selectable. When a specific vacancy arises the JAC considers those people who were previously considered suitable for appointment and makes a recommendation on merit.

Most judicial posts require that a candidate has a statutory qualification to be eligible to apply. The JAC selects candidates solely on merit and only people of good character and assesses merit against a set of qualities and abilities, available on their website at:

http://www.judicialappointments.gov.uk/application-process/112.htm

Legal Aid: Mental Health

Richard Harrington: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects on the operation of Mental Health Act Tribunals of implementation of proposed changes to his Department's budget for legal aid for 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [20209]

Mr Djanogly: Following the recent tender for new contracts to be introduced on 15 November, the Legal Services Commission (LSC) will be allocating approximately 1,500 more new matter starts (the phrase the LSC to describe new cases started) in mental health in the 2010-11 contract year than were allocated in 2009-10. The mental health contract tenders were carried out on a non-competitive basis, and the number of applicants who have been provisionally offered a contract closely matches the number of existing providers. The LSC is confident that the overall provision of mental health services will remain good.

On 23 June 2010 the Justice Secretary announced, via written ministerial statement, that the Government are undertaking a fundamental policy assessment of legal aid in England and Wales. The Government intend to seek views on proposals later this autumn. Impact assessments will be published in the usual way.

Magistrates Courts: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many criminal cases at *(a)* Worksop and *(b)* Retford magistrates court involved defendants living in post code areas *(a)* DN22, *(b)* DN10, *(c)* DN1 and *(d)* S81 in 2009. [20210]

Mr Djanogly: In 2009 there were 4,800 criminal proceedings completed at magistrates courts in the Worksop and Retford local justice area (LJA). Worksop and Retford are the only two magistrates courts in this LJA; however, centrally collected information does not allow the separate identification of those proceedings completed at Worksop and Retford magistrates courts specifically.

Information on the addresses of defendants in magistrates court cases began being recorded on central administrative systems in 2009. Officials are currently analysing the quality and completeness of the information held and I will write to the hon. Member in due course with the results of this investigation.

Offenders: Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many offenders in each prison establishment were subject to loss of privileges under the PSO 4000 Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme following adjudication in the last 12 months; [20278]

(2) how many offenders in each prison establishment were adjudged guilty at adjudication of breach of prison discipline in each of the last 12 months; and if he will make a statement. [20279]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) records the total number of findings of guilt against prisoners at internal disciplinary hearings (adjudications) where punishments of forfeiture of privileges were imposed. Figures are not held centrally by individual establishment. In 2009 (the latest figures available) this punishment was imposed on 84,735 occasions. Some prisoners may have been punished more than once.

In some cases a disciplinary offence, or a pattern of misbehaviour by a prisoner, will lead to a review of the prisoner's privilege level, but this is an administrative procedure separate from adjudications.

The total number of proven disciplinary offences in 2009 was 104,745. NOMS does not have data for how many offenders committed these offences each month.

Data on disciplinary offences and punishments in prisons are available in the Offender Management Caseload Statistics 2009, on the Ministry of Justice website at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/prisonandprobation.htm

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in each prison establishment were on the basic level of the Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme *(a)* on the last date for which details are available and *(b)* 12 months previously. [20291]

Mr Blunt: The latest figures that are available for prisoners on the basic level of the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme are for the end of September 2010, and are as follows:

Prison	*September 2010*	*September 2009*
Acklington	7	3
Albany	5	1
Altcourse	49	60
Ashfield	55	53
Ashwell	0	0
Askham Grange	0	0

Prison	*September 2010*	*September 2009*
Aylesbury	19	8
Bedford	6	3
Belmarsh	22	14
Birmingham	4	9
Blantyre House	0	0
Blundeston	3	7
Brinsford	9	9
Bristol	7	10
Brixton	7	8
Bronzefield	4	3
Buckley Hall	7	2
Bullingdon	15	7
Bullwood Hall	0	0
Bure	4	n/a
Camp Hill	7	3
Canterbury	1	3
Cardiff	6	9
Castington	0	8
Channings Wood	6	6
Chelmsford	21	16
Coldingley	4	1
Cookham Wood	18	12
Dartmoor	2	14
Deerbolt	12	4
Doncaster	23	11
Dorchester	1	2
Dovegate	8	6
Downview	2	1
Drake Hall	3	0
Durham	8	1
East Sutton Park	0	0
Eastwood Park	4	7
Edmunds Hill	6	3
Elmley	15	16
Erlestoke	2	2
Everthorpe	15	7
Exeter	9	5
Featherstone	12	10
Feltham	35	12
Ford	0	0
Forest Bank	29	33
Foston Hall	7	2
Frankland	33	19
Full Sutton	10	9
Garth	7	4
Gartree	4	5
Glen Parva	42	38
Gloucester	2	0
Grendon	0	0
Guys Marsh	5	11
Haverigg	20	11
Hewell	6	9
High Down	11	11
Highpoint	22	18
Hindley	20	28
Hollesley Bay	2	1
Holloway	5	6
Holme House	6	6
Hull	25	8
Kennet	3	2
Kingston	0	2
Kirkham	0	1
Kirklevington	0	0
Lancaster	1	1
Lancaster Farms	14	8
Latchmere House	0	0
Leeds	3	7
Leicester	10	3
Lewes	3	11
Leyhill	0	0
Lincoln	7	8
Lindholme	14	9
Littlehey	16	1
Liverpool	8	11
Long Lartin	7	4
Low Newton	5	3
Lowdham Grange	15	20
Maidstone	0	0
Manchester	14	30
Moorland—Closed	14	25
Moorland—Open	0	—
Morton Hall	1	1
Mount	14	14
New Hall	18	14
North Sea Camp	2	0
Northallerton	6	4
Norwich	14	8
Nottingham	17	14
Onley	20	16
Parc	20	20
Parkhurst	13	9
Pentonville	23	10
Peterborough - Female	5	0
Peterborough - Male	37	33
Portland	12	17
Preston	13	4
Ranby	13	27
Reading	0	3
Risley	30	23
Rochester	17	15
Rye Hill	8	11
Send	3	0
Shepton Mallet	0	0
Shrewsbury	1	4
Stafford	3	2
Standford Hill	1	0
Stocken	15	5
Stoke Heath	27	35
Styal	5	5
Sudbury	3	1
Swaleside	26	16
Swansea	3	2
Swinfen Hall	14	26
Thorn Cross	7	6
Usk/Prescoed	0	0
Verne	10	7
Wakefield	21	9
Wandsworth	16	12
Warren Hill	19	14
Wayland	19	8
Wealstun	6	6
Wellingborough	7	1
Werrington	16	10

Prison	September 2010	September 2009
Wetherby	12	12
Wharton	3	2
Whitemoor	3	5
Winchester	5	0
Wolds	1	2
Woodhill	17	6
Wormwood Scrubs	3	3
Wymott	4	3
Total	1,386	1,166

[1] Joint total for both open and closed sites

Offenders: Rehabilitation

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress has been made on the payment by results policy for the rehabilitation of offenders. [19702]

Mr Blunt: The Government are committed to introducing payment by results as part of a new approach to offender rehabilitation. We plan to commission providers to work with offenders to reduce reoffending, paid for by the subsequent savings generated in the criminal justice system.

Officials in the Ministry of Justice are developing proposals for the introduction of payment by results approaches. The outcome of this work will be published for consultation in the forthcoming Green Paper on offender rehabilitation.

Offenders: Women

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on the needs of women offenders. [19706]

Mr Blunt: I have recently had discussions with the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for equalities on the needs of women offenders. The Government are committed to diverting women away from crime and tackling women's offending. We are taking forward an approach to provide effective alternatives to remands for the courts with new women's enhanced bail provision and effective community sentences using the expertise of voluntary sector through women's community projects. The aim is to meet the distinct and complex needs of women which are linked to their offending.

Prisoners: Sentencing

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what training is available to prisoners serving sentences of one year or less. [19703]

Mr Blunt: Prisoner learning and skills is provided by a range of further education colleges and organisations under contract to the Skills Funding Agency through the Offender Learning and Skills Service (OLASS). OLASS includes career information and advice services which assesses prisoners initial learning needs to assist their employment aspirations.

The Qualifications and Credits Framework (QCF) is currently being rolled out across the prison estate and is in line with mainstream education provision. This provides prisoners with flexible routes to gaining full qualifications and enables progression in small steps through the accumulation of credits, one credit being equal to a notional 10 hours of study.

This mode of study is most appropriate for prisoners serving sentences of one year or less who can continue and complete their training in the community. Training opportunities will vary depending on the curriculum on offer in different prisons. Prisoner learning and skills is being reviewed.

Prisons: Reform

Guy Opperman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on his plans to reform prisons; and if he will make a statement. [19737]

Mr Blunt: The Government believe that prison is the right place for the most serious, dangerous and persistent offenders. We will always provide enough prison places for those whom the courts judge should receive a custodial sentence. But we are committed to a new approach to rehabilitation, involving voluntary and private sector partners alongside prison and probation resources. We will publish a Green Paper later this year, setting out our plans to reform sentencing and rehabilitation policy, and we will review our prison capacity strategy in the light of responses to our proposals.

Reoffenders

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent factors he has identified as contributing to a reduction in re-offending rates. [19704]

Mr Blunt: This Government are committed to improving rehabilitation outcomes from those leaving prisons or on community sentences. The Ministry of Justice is releasing a compendium of reoffending statistics on 4 November 2010. This covers a wide range of subjects including factors which influence reoffending.

As part of overhauling the system of rehabilitation to reduce reoffending we are also looking at the sentencing frameworks for adult and young offenders, and the range of penalties available in the criminal justice system. We will take time to get it right and will consult widely before bringing forward specific plans for reform. Our forthcoming Sentencing and Rehabilitation Green Paper will set out our plans in more detail.

Written Answers to Questions

Monday 1 November 2010

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Crown Prosecution Service: Pay

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Attorney-General for what performance-related bonuses senior officers of the Crown Prosecution Service are eligible. [20642]

The Attorney-General: Senior civil servants (SCS) employed, by the CPS are eligible for consideration of performance related payments in accordance with Cabinet Office guidelines. For 2009-10, payments of between £1,259 and £12,117 were made to 22 members of the SCS. For Chief Crown Prosecutors, awards of between £666 and £9,675 were made for the same period to 45 members of staff.

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Attorney-General what criteria are used to determine the payment of bonuses to Crown Prosecution Service employees. [20643]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) reviews the achievement of annual personal objectives and business performance measures in determining performance related pay for staff.

Daniel Ubani

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Attorney-General what information the Crown Prosecution Service holds on the date on which the German authorities *(a)* commenced investigations into Dr Daniel Ubani's treatment of David Gray in the UK, *(b)* arrested him and *(c)* initiated legal proceedings against him. [21009]

The Solicitor-General: Before 23 March 2009, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) had no information on any criminal process contemplated or taken by the German authorities. The CPS has no information on: *(a)* when any criminal investigation was commenced by the German authorities; or *(b)* whether Dr Ubani was arrested in Germany. The CPS has a copy of a German prosecutor's document, which suggests that legal proceedings were initiated against him on 12 March 2009.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Attorney-General for how many days on average staff in the Law Officers' Departments in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18580]

The Attorney-General: The information requested is contained in the following table.

Average working days lost 2009-10

Grade	*TSOL*	*SFO*	*CPS*	*NFA*[1]
AA	[2]41.7	—	12.1	—
AO	14.1	[2]23.4	10.8	—
EO	9.8	11.4	9.6	0.7
HEO	4.8	3.9	7.8	0.6
SEO	2.6	12.1	5.4	0.15
G7	5.8	3.2	8.1	0.29
G6	4.0	4.0	7.2	0.3
SCS	2.9	5.5	2.8	0

[1] The NFA was launched on 1 October 2008 with a staff base of predominantly interim and temporary employees. During 2009-10 the Agency began a process of recruiting permanent civil service staff and therefore the average figures are depressed by there being less than the full complement of staff in post throughout the whole year.

[2] In both cases relatively small numbers of people were employed at these grades, and the figures for average working days lost have consequently been heavily distorted by a very small number of staff who were on long term sick leave.

Euthanasia: Switzerland

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Attorney-General what reports he has received on the number of UK residents who have been assisted to die in Switzerland since the publication of the Director of Public Prosecutions' interim policy on the prosecution of offences assisted suicide; and how many of such cases have been referred to the Crown Prosecution Service for investigation. [20861]

The Attorney-General: I have not received any direct reports on the number of UK residents who have been assisted to die in Switzerland since the interim policy for prosecutors in respect of cases of assisted suicide was issued by the Director of Public Prosecutions (DPP) on 23 September 2009.

The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has advised that its central records indicate that four cases involving UK residents who have been assisted to die in Switzerland have been referred to the CPS since September 2009. This number includes both those cases that are ongoing and in which decisions on prosecution have been taken.

Following a public consultation exercise, the DPP amended the interim policy and published a revised version on 25 February 2010.

Sexual Offences: Young People

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how many cases of underage sex involving boys aged 15 years and under were passed to the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* 1980 to 1989, *(b)* 1990 to 1999 and *(c)* 2000 to 2009; and in how many such cases (i) charges were made against the adults involved, (ii) charges were made against the underage boys involved and (iii) the underage boys were prosecuted; [20282]

(2) how many cases of underage sex involving girls aged 15 years and under were reported to the Crown Prosecution Service in *(a)* 1980 to 1989, *(b)* 1990 to 1999 and *(c)* 2000 to 2009; and in how many such cases (i) charges were made against the adults involved, (ii) charges were made against the underage girls involved and (iii) the underage girls were prosecuted. [20283]

The Attorney-General: The Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) came into existence in 1986. Limited information on the volume of prosecutions for specific offences is captured on the Compass Management Information System. Compass was fully implemented in April 2005 and there are no central records prior to that date. The records show that in the five years ending March 2010 there were 13,282 offences charged under the sections of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, which relate to sexual assaults or activity with a child or young person under the age of 16. This figure relates to the age of the victim and not that of the, defendant. Charges for other sexual offences, for example rape, may also involve victims aged 15 years or under but it is not possible to ascertain the age of the victim.

It is also not possible to ascertain the number of offences that were reported, whether the charges were modified or the outcome of the proceedings, because the records show the nature of the offence at the outset of the proceedings. Furthermore, it is not possible to ascertain the age or gender of any victim or whether the victim in any case was also prosecuted from the database.

This information is held on individual case files and could be obtained only by identifying and examining every relevant file in each CPS office, which would incur disproportionate cost.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Billy Wright Inquiry

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what discussions he has had with the Justice Minister in the Northern Ireland Executive on implementation of the recommendations of the Billy Wright inquiry. [20077]

Mr Paterson: I discussed the matter with the Justice Minister shortly after publication of the report on 14 September and continue to engage with him on this issue. Work has since been commissioned to follow up the report's recommendations; this is being taken forward by the Northern Ireland Department of Justice and the Northern Ireland Prison Service, as well as by officials in the Northern Ireland Office where recommendations relate to non-devolved matters. I shall issue a written statement to the House shortly.

WALES

Disability: Public Expenditure

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she had with carers and disability organisations in Wales on the effect of the Comprehensive Spending Review on the payment of benefits to their members; and if she will make a statement. [20062]

Mrs Gillan: I have met with a range of organisations, including the Older People's Commissioner for Wales, prior to the announcement of the comprehensive spending review and discussed the issues raised with colleagues.

I now intend to continue a programme of meetings with organisations and individuals from across Wales to discuss key issues, including the comprehensive spending review outcome.

Public Expenditure: Wales

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the effects of outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review on funding for Government services in Wales. [20599]

Mrs Gillan: I have discussed the comprehensive spending review with the Chancellor of the Exchequer and other Cabinet colleagues, and will continue to do so.

The spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable deficit reduction plan. It is in line with our policy of building a freer, fairer and more responsible society and puts public services and the welfare reform onto a sustainable footing, while protecting the most vulnerable.

INDEPENDENT PARLIAMENTARY STANDARDS AUTHORITY COMMITTEE

Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: Manpower

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, pursuant to the answer of 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 875W, on the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority: manpower, what the annual cost to the public purse is of staff participation in Benenden Healthcare. [20660]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the total annual cost to the public purse is of staff participation in Benenden Healthcare.

The total annual cost to the public purse of IPSA staff participation in Benenden Healthcare will be nil, as the scheme is funded by contributions from staff.

Members: Allowances

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what the average amount paid by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to each hon. Member receiving payments for *(a)* mortgage interest and *(b)* rent has been in each month since May 2010. [18098]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what the average amount paid by the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority to each hon. Member receiving payments for (a) mortgage interest and (b) rent has been in each month since May 2010. (18098)

Average mortgage payments in each month since May are as follows:

	£
May	606.40
June	736.32
July	783.99
August	715.43
September	712.20
October	694.63

Average rent payments in each month since May are as follows:

	£
May	793.22
June	889.37
July	1,063.89
August	1,067.65
September	1,060.34
October	1,173.81

The average mortgage interest payments are lower than average rental payments, in part due to historically low interest rates. The expenses scheme does not provide for future payments of mortgage interest, picking up one of the recommendations that was central to the report on MPs' expenses and allowances made by the Committee for Standards in Public Life:

> "Recommendation 3: MPs should no longer be reimbursed for the cost of mortgage interest payments or any other costs associated with the purchase of a property. No new arrangements for support of mortgage interest should be allowed from the date of this report. In future only rent or hotel costs should be reimbursed."

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority will estimate *(a)* the average time spent by (i) hon. Members and (ii) the staff of hon. Members dealing with the Authority and *(b)* the cost to the public purse of the time so spent in the latest period for which figures are available. [18422]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question regarding time spent by hon. Members and hon. Members staff dealing with IPSA and the cost to the public purse of the time so spent.

IPSA does not keep time records of how long Members of Parliament or their staff spend dealing with IPSA, nor does IPSA keep any estimates of the cost to the public purse of their doing so.

IPSA does keep records of the number and length of phone calls from Members of Parliament and their staff. In September, the last full month for which there is data, IPSA received some 2,980 calls to our information line with each call lasting on average 5 minutes and 30 seconds.

Bob Russell: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, if he will make representations to the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority for claims made by hon. and right hon. Members to be repayable without the requirement that they must be made within 90 days of the expense being incurred. [18676]

Mr Charles Walker: Although I greatly sympathise with the concerns of the hon. Member, the role prescribed by statute for the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority does not include making representations on the scheme.

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, what provision will be made for a review of the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) as part of the forthcoming review of the expenses scheme for hon. Members; and what professional advice will be provided to IPSA on those matters. [20346]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what provision will be made for a review of the efficiency and cost-effectiveness of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority (IPSA) as part of the forthcoming review of the expenses scheme for hon. Members; and what professional advice will be provided to IPSA on those matters. 20346

IPSA launched an organisational review in October which will run in parallel with the forthcoming review of the expenses scheme for hon. Members. The organisational review is aimed at improving IPSA's efficiency and cost-effectiveness and will make use of internal and external professional advice as appropriate.

Personnel: Privilege Days

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how many staff of the Independent Parliamentary Speaker's Authority are entitled to privilege days; and what the annual cost to the public purse is of the entitlement per employee. [19821]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how many staff at IPSA are entitled to privilege days, and the annual cost to the public purse is of the entitlement per employee.

There are a total of 54 employees at IPSA who are entitled to privilege days at IPSA. The notional cost per employee per annum for this benefit is approximately £375 (net).

Season Ticket Loans

Mr Liddell-Grainger: To ask the hon. Member for Broxbourne, representing the Speaker's Committee for the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, how much funding the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has allocated to the provision of interest-free season ticket loans for its staff; and what the average cost to the public purse is of the scheme in respect of each participating member of staff in 2010-11. [19888]

Mr Charles Walker: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority. I have asked IPSA to reply.

Letter from Andrew McDonald:

As Interim Chief Executive of the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking how much funding the Independent Parliamentary Standards Authority has allocated to the provision of interest-free season ticket loans for its staff, and what the average cost to the public purse is of the scheme in respect of each participating member of staff in 2010-11.

In the current financial year to date, IPSA has granted season ticket loans totalling £22,777.56 to 20 employees. Assuming an average notional rate of interest of 3.5%, the annual cost of the scheme is currently £797.21. The average cost of the scheme for each participating member of staff is therefore £39.86.

IPSA provides for an equivalent scheme for Members' staff.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Officials: Accommodation

Mr Whittingdale: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, which posts in the House of Commons Service entitle the holder to accommodation *(a)* in the gift of the House Service and *(b)* paid for from the public purse; and what the address is of each property owned by the House Service which is put at the disposal of such staff. [20072][1]

Sir Stuart Bell: The following positions in the House entitle the holder to accommodation: Clerk of the House, Serjeant at Arms, Speaker's Secretary, Head Office Keeper and two Senior Office Keepers. Sleeping facilities are provided for the Deputy Serjeant at Arms, Assistant Serjeant at Arms, Clerk Assistant, Clerk of Committees and Clerk of Legislation, reflecting their particular need to be available on the parliamentary estate over prolonged periods and at unpredictable times. The addresses of the accommodation are: 2 Parliament street, 3 Parliament street, 2a Canon row, 2b Canon row, 4 Canon row, 102 Rochester row and 22 John Islip street. The sleeping facilities are also used by other staff when there is a need to do so.

PRIME MINISTER

Members: Allowances

Bob Russell: To ask the Prime Minister how long on average he spends managing expenses and allowances claims; and if he will make a statement. [19608]

The Prime Minister: I am aware of concerns surrounding the expenses system and am keen to see improvements. I do not claim accommodation expenses.

Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe: UK Delegations

Mr Amess: To ask the Prime Minister what progress he has made in appointing a new UK delegation to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Council of Europe; and if he will make a statement. [20249]

The Prime Minister: We are still waiting for a full list of candidates for the UK delegation.

Task Force on Strengthening Economic Governance in EU

Mr Cash: To ask the Prime Minister what negotiating position he intends to adopt on the conclusion of the Task Force on Strengthening Economic Governance in EU, presented to the European Council and dated 21 October 2010, that endorsement by the Council of the recommendations in the report will contribute to strengthening economic governance in the EU and the euro are and can be implemented within the existing treaties; and if he will place immediately in the Library a copy of *(a)* the Task Force Report and *(b)* the Chancellor of the Exchequer's submission to the Task Force made on 9 July 2010; and if he will make a statement. [20485]

The Prime Minister: I refer my hon. Friend to my statement today and to the answer given by my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary to the Treasury (Mr Hoban) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 318.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Police Stations: Opening Hours

19. **Mark Pawsey:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if she will issue guidance to police authorities on the opening hours of inquiry desks at police stations. [20317]

Nick Herbert: Opening hours of inquiry desks are a matter for individual chief constables to decide, based on their local priorities.

UK Border Agency

20. **Gemma Doyle:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment she has made of the likely effects on UK Border Agency services of the proposed reduction in its staff numbers by 2015. [20318]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency priorities will be to secure the border and reduce migration. It will do this at the same time as reducing the budget by up to 20% through cutting overhead costs, improving efficiency and quality through investment in technology and getting better value for money from suppliers.

Rural Police Forces

21. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what mechanisms are in place to determine the funding of rural police forces. [20319]

Nick Herbert: I will put before this House more detail on funding allocations for all forces, including rural forces, in December.

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[1] *[Official Report, 12 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 3MC.]*

Licensing Act 2003

22. **Peter Aldous:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to publish her proposals to amend the Licensing Act 2003. [20320]

James Brokenshire: The proposals for amendments to the Licensing Act will be included within the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill. The Police Reform and Social Responsibility Bill will be introduced later in the year.

Immigration Cap: Science and Industry

23. **Lorely Burt:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received on the likely effect of her proposed immigration cap on science and industry. [20321]

Mrs May: Our recent consultation on the immigration system fully involved scientific organisations. They have underlined the importance of being able to recruit the best scientists from around the world. I am aware of the case of the Beatson Institute in my hon. Friend's constituency and can assure her that the UK Border Agency is looking closely at this and related cases.

Firearm and Knife Injuries

24. **David Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Health on the sharing of non-confidential information on firearm and knife injuries between hospitals and police forces. [20322]

James Brokenshire: The Secretary of State for Health and the Home Secretary have established the Department of Health Information Sharing Implementation Group, to determine how to deliver the coalition Government commitment to share non-confidential information on gun and knife crime. Home Office officials sit on that group.

Animal Welfare

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has made an estimate of the likely change in the number of inspections of designated establishments carried out by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate in each of the next three years; and if she will make a statement. [18802]

Lynne Featherstone: I am not in a position to estimate the number of inspections of designated establishments to be carried out by the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate in each of the next three years.

The inspectorate plays a key role in the implementation of the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act. Visits by inspectors to designated establishments, many of which are unannounced, are important to check for compliance with the Act. An additional important role is to advise those working under the Act and encourage best practice with respect to the 3Rs—replacement, refinement and reduction. The inspectorate implements a risk-based approach to inspection and I expect this to continue.

The new European Union directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, to be implemented in United Kingdom legislation in January 2013, also requires a risk-based approach to inspections. A detailed assessment of the impact of its provisions, including those relating to inspections, is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many inspectors are in post in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate; what the average length of service of those inspectors is; and how many inspectors have left the Inspectorate in each of the last seven years. [19072]

Lynne Featherstone: At 25 October 2010 there were 25 Inspectors in post in the Animals (Scientific Procedures) Inspectorate with an average length of service in the Home Office of between five years and 10 years. Both records of length of service and the number of inspectors who have left the Inspectorate in each of the last seven years, which follow, are recorded in bands that comply with the Office of National Statistics guidelines.

2009: Less than five
2008: Less than five
2007: None
2006: Less than five
2005: Less than five
2004: Less than five
2003: Between five and 10

Asylum: Deportation

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many children of asylum seekers awaiting deportation were in detention on the latest date for which figures are available. [19588]

Damian Green: National Statistics on children detained solely under Immigration Act powers are published quarterly in the "Control of Immigration: Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom". The Statistical Summary for the second quarter of 2010, the most recent available, coupled with local management information indicates that one child of an asylum seeking family was detained with its family awaiting removal as at 30 June 2010.

This figure is based on management information and is not subject to the detailed checks that apply for National Statistics. It is provisional and may be subject to change.

Information on people detained solely under Immigration Act powers as at 30 September will be available on 25 November in the Control of Immigration:

Quarterly Statistical Summary, United Kingdom, July-September 2010 is on the Home Office's Research, Development and Statistics website at:

http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/rds/immigration-asylum-stats.html

The Government have made clear their commitment to end the detention of children and continues to work with its corporate partners to find an alternative that protects the welfare of children, without undermining UK immigration laws.

Borders: Personal records

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of new procurement exercises for the e-Borders programme. [20457]

Damian Green: Since the termination of the contract with the prime supplier, Raytheon Systems Limited, the e-Borders programme has been developing a strategy to procure services to replace those under the original e-Borders contract. The programme is currently examining options for contracting with new suppliers and expects to be able to identify the costs by December 2010.

Criminal Records Bureau

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 201W, on the Criminal Records Bureau, on how many occasions the processing of enhanced disclosures initially received in each month of 2010 to date has taken more than 28 days. [18619]

Lynne Featherstone: The following table details the total number and percentage of enhanced Criminal Records Bureau (CRB) checks that took over 28 calendar days to issue for the period 1 January 2010 to 31 August 2010. September figures are not yet available as 28 calendar days have not yet elapsed since the end of this month. Figures for September will be available from the bureau from 28 October.

Application form received month	*Total enhanced CRB checks received*	*Total enhanced CRB checks despatched after 28 days or still in progress*	*Percentage over 28 days*
2010			
January	282,738	98,285	34.8
February	352,462	130,406	37.0
March	411,374	174,498	42.4
April	323,130	127,577	39.5
May	345,044	117,253	34.0
June	388,810	124,515	32.0
July	362,762	115,853	31.9
August	259,183	73,405	28.3

The length of time a CRB check can take to process can include "time out with customer". This occurs when the CRB has to contact the registered body for additional information about the applicant, when the application form has not been completed correctly or where the police require additional clarification about the applicant's identity. The CRB cannot continue to process the application until the registered body provides this information; or the applicant resolves any question of identity to the satisfaction of the police force.

There are a number of other factors that can affect the timely completion of CRB checks, including but not restricted to the length of time it can take for an employer to deal with the initial application; the accurate completion of the application form; the clarity of the information provided; the existence of conviction or non-conviction information; any ongoing or outstanding criminal investigations or proceedings; where more than one force holds relevant information and the operational effectiveness of the Disclosure Units of the police forces involved in the CRB checking process.

The CRB have been working with police forces through joint operational performance reviews, to address the problems associated with delays and the impact that exceptional demand for CRB checks can have on police forces. The CRB has set up improvement plans with those forces that have been having problems meeting the demand for certificates. This is aimed at maintaining a steady output of applications on the system while also reducing the number of outstanding cases that have been with police forces for more than 25 days.

Criminal Records: Fees and Charges

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to require volunteers applying to work as leaders in recognised youth organisations to pay a fee for Criminal Records Bureau checks; and if she will make a statement. [20170]

Lynne Featherstone: My right hon. Friend the Home Secretary announced the terms of reference for the review of Criminal Records Bureau and the Vetting and Barring Scheme (VBS) on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 77-78WS. The first phase of the Criminal Records Review and the VBS review are expected to report early in the new year.

While the reviews may have an impact on the requirements to undertake Criminal Records Bureau checks, the Government remain committed to reducing the barriers to volunteering and they do not intend to review the provision of free checks for volunteers (at this stage).

Departmental Consultants

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many *(a)* consultants and *(b)* contractors were employed by or on behalf of the UK Border Agency to work on the e-Borders programme in each of the last five years. [20451]

Damian Green: The following table provides the numbers of consultants and independent contractors employed by the e-Borders programme since 2005. Separate figures are not held for contractors and consultants. The current figure as at 28 October 2010 is 39.

	Consultancy headcount
2005-06	72
2006-07	103
2007-08	81
2008-09	53
2009-10	60

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the merits of opting in to the EU Directive on human trafficking. [20644]

Damian Green: The Government decided not to opt in to the Directive at the outset, but to review the position once the Directive has been agreed. We still have the option of applying to opt in at a later stage.

In reaching this decision, the Government considered whether the Directive would make a practical difference to the way the UK fights trafficking and whether it contained operational co-operation measures from which the UK would benefit.

Immigration

Jeremy Lefroy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress she has made on reform of the immigration system. [20311]

Damian Green: In just six months the coalition Government have made significant progress in the reform of the immigration system. We have introduced an interim limit on non-EU economic migrants and consulted on proposals for the annual. We are also reviewing student and family routes. We have made significant progress towards ending the detention of children and we have also begun exploring improvements to the asylum system.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) from what countries of origin applicants for indefinite leave to remain normally resident in the Medway council area *(a)* applied for, *(b)* were granted and *(c)* were refused indefinite leave to remain in the latest period for which figures are available; [20545]

(2) how many individuals who at the time of their application for indefinite leave to remain in the UK were resident in the Medway council area, were granted such leave in the latest period for which figures are available. [20546]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency is unable to provide definitive data on the applicants address at the time of application. The information provided is therefore for the applicants last known address.

The number of applications made for indefinite leave from April 2009 to March 2010 for applicants living in the Medway council area was 398. Of this figure 332 were granted and 26 were refused.

The breakdown by nationality can be found in the House of Commons Library.

This is internal management information and is subject to change. This information has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols.

Knives

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated recent research on controlling the sale of knives; what recent assessment she has made of the merits of licensing the sale of knives; what guidance her Department issues on the restrictions in place on the sale of (i) domestic and (ii) non-domestic knives; and if she will make a statement. [19669]

James Brokenshire: The Home Office has not commissioned or evaluated any research on controlling the sale of knives, or made any assessment of the merits of licensing the sale of knives. Guidance on the restrictions in place on the sale of domestic and non-domestic knives is available at:

http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/CrimeJusticeAndTheLaw/Typesofcrime/DG_181675

Law Enforcement Agencies: Expenditure

Jack Lopresti: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her most recent estimate is of the average annual expenditure of law enforcement agencies on investigations of financial crime; and what proportion of that expenditure is accounted for by forensic analysis of currency for controlled drugs. [19060]

James Brokenshire: It is not possible to provide this estimate as the majority of crimes contain a financial element and financial investigation is an integral part of a broad range of law enforcement investigations.

Offensive Weapons

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many arrests there were for possession of an offensive weapon in St Albans constituency in each of the last five years; and how many such arrests resulted in convictions for which a prison sentence of five years or more was imposed. [19664]

James Brokenshire: The information requested on arrests is not collected centrally.

The arrests collection held by the Home Office covers arrests for recorded crimes (notifiable offences) only, broken down at a main offence group level, covering categories such as violence against the person and robbery.

It is not possible to separately identify which arrests under these offence categories were related to the possession of offensive weapons.

The maximum sentence for the possession of a knife or offensive weapon is four years, therefore no defendants convicted of these offences were sentenced to imprisonment for five years or more.

Prostitution

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the effect of advertisements for sexual services on levels of demand for prostitution. [20833]

Lynne Featherstone: We do not believe it is appropriate to advertise sexual services in local newspapers. The Government Equalities Office commissioned research into the advertising of women and services supplied by women in personal classified advertisements. Two reports were produced: 'Women Not for Sale', which was published in January 2008, and a follow-up report published in March 2010. However, no assessment has been made of the effect of advertising on levels of demand for prostitution.

Rape: Finance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 404-05W, on rape: finance, what the reasons are for the difference in the timetables for making payments to sexual assault referral centres in Wales and England. [20366]

Lynne Featherstone: Resource funding for sexual assault referral centres (SARCs) in England is in the process of being paid from the Department of Health to strategic health authorities, and will be allocated by SHAs to SARCs in their region. Capital grants were issued by the Home Office in September and where correctly signed agreements have been returned, payment will be made in October.

Home Office funding for Welsh SARCs was initially due to be administered through the Home Office Crime Team for Wales, part of the Government Office Network. However, as a result of the decision to dissolve the Government offices, including the Home Office Crime Team for Wales, that funding will now also be administered by the Home Office. Grant agreements have been issued to all Welsh SARCs receiving funding in this round, and on the return of correctly signed agreements, funding will be paid in November.

JUSTICE

Capital Projects

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) which of his Department's capital projects he plans to *(a)* abandon, *(b)* defer and *(c)* continue; [20086]

(2) how much capital funding he has allocated to maintenance of the prison estate in each of the next four years; [20087]

(3) whether he plans to close any *(a)* prisons and *(b)* prison wings. [20218]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice is currently developing its capital expenditure plans in the light of the spending review that was announced on 20 October 2010.

The Chancellor announced in his spending review statement that plans for a new 1,500 place prison had been deferred. Initial plans for other capital projects for the SR period, including budgets for maintenance of the prison estate will be in place by the end of the calendar year.

Decisions about prison and wing closures have yet to be made. The Ministry of Justice is committed to publishing a Green Paper on Rehabilitation and Sentencing, consulting on our longer term plans for offender management. As a consequence the Ministry will re-evaluate its strategy for prison capacity.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how much was paid to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in bonuses and other payments in addition to salary in each year since its inception; how many officials received such payments; and what the monetary values was of the largest 20 payments made in each such year; [18701]

(2) what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since its inception; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18702]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: Within the Ministry of Justice, payments of salary, non-consolidated performance pay and other allowances depend on the contractual terms that an individual is employed on. The information provided as follows covers a range of contractual terms.

Senior Civil Service

Members of the Senior Civil Service (SCS) are employed on common terms across the Ministry. Details of the non-salary elements of their remuneration are set out in the Senior Salaries Review Body Report.

http://www.ome.uk.com/Senior_Salaries_Review_Body.aspx

Since the establishment of the Ministry, payments of non-consolidated performance pay to members of the SCS are shown in the following tables:

Paid in calendar year	*Staff receiving payments*	*Average payment (£)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Maximum payment (£)*	*Largest 20 payments (£)*
2007[1]	116	7,469	866,500	22,500	205,500
2008	159	10,364	1,648,000	25,000	341,000
2009	162	8,488	1,375,000	15,000	270,000
2010	168	5,822	949,000	10,000	200,000

[1] Refers only to those Ministry members formerly in the Department of Constitutional Affairs.

Performance payments are awarded as part of the annual pay award process to members of the SCS whose performance has exceeded their agreed delivery objectives during the previous performance year.

Non SCS employees within the Ministry are eligible to non-consolidated payments and occupational allowances. Payments of non-consolidated performance pay to staff may be either:

'In Year' non-consolidated performance pay, awards of which are made during the performance year to staff who have made exceptional contributions on specific occasions.

'End of Year' non-consolidated performance pay, awarded as part of the annual pay award to staff who have exceeded their performance objectives during the previous performance year.

The Ministry of Justice (excluding NOMS)

The following table provides information on 'In Year' non-consolidated performance payments.

Paid in financial year	*Staff receiving payments*[1]	*Average payment (£)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Largest payment (£)*	*Value of largest 20 payments (£)*
2007-08	5,327	440	2,348,520	4,000	42,000.00
2008-09	6,135	418	2,566,120	5,675	77,225.00
2009-10	5,673	269	1,483,442	8,000	91,448.00

[1] Includes those working in HM Court Service, Tribunals Service, Office of the Public Guardian and those Non-Departmental Public Bodies whose pay terms are aligned with the Ministry.

The following table provides information on 'Year End' non-consolidated performance payments.

Paid in financial year	*Staff receiving payments*	*Average payment (£)*	*Total amount awarded (£)*	*Largest payment (£)*
2007-08	2,419	400	967,000	400
2008-09	1,608	1,200	1,929,600	1,200
2009-10	1,889	1,200	2,226,800	1,200

Note:
The value of the 'Year end' payment of non consolidated performance pay is set as part of the pay award and is an equal amount for all staff who receive it.

Payments of occupational allowances to staff are made in accordance with the Ministry's Pay Policy Manual. These allowances may be based on the requirement of a job role (e.g. qualification) or reflect a recognised market premium. An allowance also may be paid to reflect the pattern of working (e.g. on-call payments) and where an individual performs duties at a higher level than their own substantive grade. Central records on the total number of staff receiving allowances are not held. Nor is the value of the top 20 largest payments paid to individuals. Information on the total amount paid in each year since 2007 are shown in the following table.

	£
2007-08	8,048,082
2008-09	10,945,380
2009-10	9,458,872

Details of total amounts paid in overtime paid to staff in the Ministry is shown in the following table. Records on the number of individual employees paid overtime or the highest 20 payments are not held centrally.

	£
2007-08	6,788,860
2008-09	6,881,223
2009-10	6,759,306

National Offender Management Service (NOMS)

Information on the number of staff in grades below the SCS receiving 'In Year' non-consolidated performance payments and the total amount paid in the 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 financial years across HM Prison Service and National Offender Management Service Headquarters is contained in the following table.

Paid in financial year	*Number of staff receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid*[1] *(£)*	*Value of the largest 20 payments (£)*
2007-08	3,559	1,314,358	66,500
2008-09	3,411	2,110,012	70,284
2009-10	2,503	1,609,340	87,454

[1] Information has been adjusted to exclude payments that are not Special Bonus payments. The figures presented here will therefore differ from previously published totals. The nature of the excluded payments is not known.

Details for payments of 'Year End' non-consolidated performance pay in the 2007-08, 2008-09, 2009-10 and 2010-11 financial years for staff below SCS employed across HM Prison Service and the National Offender Management Service Headquarters are shown in the following table:

Paid in financial year	*Number of staff receiving a payment*	*Total amount paid (£)*	*Value of largest 20 payments (£)*
2007-08	4,817	1,096,766	14,384
2008-09	5,332	1,325,952	16,060
2009-10	5,256	1,426,330	16,420
2010-11	5,950	1,629,784	16,580

Note:
The value of the 'Year End' payment of non consolidated performance pay is set as part of the pay award and is standard percentage of salary for all staff who receive it.

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) does hold information on allowances and payments in addition to salary but not in the detail requested. However, the sum of all payments in addition to standard salary payments for NOMS staff for 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10 is as shown in the following table:

	£
2007-08[1]	109,586,243
2008-09[2]	122,900,162
2009-10	120,272,758

[1] The 2007-08 data are prior to the formation of the NOMS agency.

[2] The data for 2008-09 are incomplete as they do not include values before September 2008 for circa 1,000 staff who transferred from HM Prison Service into NOMS that month.

Details of total amounts paid in overtime paid to staff in the NOMS Agency is shown in the following table. Records on the number of individual employees paid overtime or the highest 20 payments are not held centrally.

	£
2007-08	10,260,954
2008-09	10,814,950
2009-10	10,442,968

Information Commissioner's Office

The Office of the Information Commissioner is a non Departmental Public Body of the Ministry and employs staff on separate contractual terms. In addition to basic salary, employees may be eligible for non-consolidated performance pay depending on their performance measured over the performance year. These arrangements have been in place since 2008.

Paid in financial year	*Amount paid (£)*	*Number of staff receiving award*	*Total amount paid (£)*
2008-09	250	46	[1]10,500
2009-10	250	64	[1]15,600

[1] The value of the 'Year end' payment of non consolidated performance pay is set as part of the pay award. The amount is pro-rated for reduced hours staff.

Allowances are paid to staff working in Office of the Information Commissioner to recognise specific skills and proficiencies or requirements of the role. The maximum skills/proficiency allowance is £519 and other allowances £240. Both allowances have been paid to fewer than 10 individuals in any year since 2007.

Information on total payments of overtime to staff in since 2007 are shown in the following table. Records on the number of individual employees paid overtime or the highest 20 payments are not held centrally.

	£
2007-08	102,188
2008-09	97,955
2009-10	87,955

Food Supplements Directive

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions his Department has had with the authorities in *(a)* Jersey and *(b)* Guernsey on progress in implementing the EU (i) Food Supplements Directive and (ii) Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation. [20830]

Mr Djanogly: My noble Friend the Minister of State for Justice (Lord McNally), the Minister responsible for the Crown Dependencies raised the implementation of the Food Supplements Directive and the Nutrition and Health Claims Regulation with the Guernsey authorities during his visit to the Island on 24 September 2010 and expects to raise the issue with the Jersey authorities in the course of his forthcoming visit there.

Freedom of Information: Public Expenditure

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice which bodies funded solely from the public purse are not public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [20852]

Mr Djanogly: The Department does not maintain a list of bodies funded solely from the public purse that are not public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Over 100,000 public authorities are currently subject to the Act. These are either listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, or covered under section 6 as "publicly owned companies" that are wholly owned by the Crown or a public authority listed in Schedule 1.

The Government are considering a range of options to increase transparency, including extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to additional public authorities. The Government will announce their intentions in due course

Ian Tomlinson

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether a senior judicial officer has been appointed to head the inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson. [19904]

Mr Djanogly: The authority to appoint assistant deputy coroners to hear specific inquests lies with the coroner and his or her local authority. The Ministry of Justice has received a request from the coroner for the nomination of a suitable judge for appointment to hear the inquest into Mr Tomlinson's death. In accordance with the usual practice in such cases, we have been discussing with the Lord Chief Justice the availability of suitable candidates for appointment to this inquest. The Lord Chief Justice has now agreed to nominate a judge, and details of the appointment are likely to be made public by the local authority for the coroner at the earliest opportunity.

Legal Aid

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department has spent on legal aid for social welfare cases *(a)* in total and *(b)* in respect of

(i) welfare benefits, (ii) housing, (iii) debt, (iv) community care and (v) employment in each year since 2006-07. [20638]

Mr Djanogly: The total amount spent each in each year 2006-07 to 2009-10 in the social welfare categories of law, including: housing, debt, welfare benefits, employment and community care, is provided in the following table:

£ million

	2006-07	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*[1]
Housing[2]	52	52	59	60
Debt	24	21	27	33
Welfare benefits	23	22	25	28
Employment	6	6	6	8
Community care	4	4	5	6
Total	108	106	123	135

[1] The figures for 2009-10 are subject to audit.

[2] The figures for housing include the Housing Possession Court Duty Solicitor Scheme.

Magistrates Courts

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent representations he has received from Nottinghamshire police on the closure of magistrates courts; what response he has made to such representations; and if he will make a statement. [21073]

Mr Djanogly: Nottinghamshire police authority has submitted a county wide response to the consultation proposals. This is being carefully considered alongside the other responses received. We hope to announce decisions by the end of the year.

Magistrates Courts: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what estimate he has made of the number of residents of Bassetlaw constituency unable to reach Mansfield magistrates court on public transport by 10.00 am on a weekday; and if he will make a statement; [21071]

(2) what estimate he has made of the maximum journey time by public transport from Mansfield to Bassetlaw at the end of the working day on each day of the working week. [21072]

Mr Djanogly: I am aware of the concerns regarding public transport in north Nottinghamshire that have been raised in the court estate consultation responses and I can assure the hon. Member that these are being very carefully considered.

Ministry of Justice economists are currently working on the provision of area wide impact assessments that will provide a full assessment of the costs and benefits of each closure. These will include an assessment of the travel impact on court users. We intend to publish the impact assessments alongside the consultations responses, by the end of the year.

National Offender Management Service: Public Expenditure

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what the cost to the public purse was of the National Offender Management Service head office and regional offices in each financial year since 2004-05; [20406]

(2) what the cost to the public purse was of the Director of Offender Management regional organisations in the financial year 2009-10. [20407]

Mr Blunt: The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) Agency was established from April 2008. There are therefore no comparable figures for the financial years 2004-05 to 2007-08.

The NOMS Agency accounts for 2009-10 show, on a comparable basis, figures for both 2008-09 and 2009-10 for HQ and Policy as follows:

	£ million
2008-09	151
2009-10	255

However, of the year-on-year difference, £113 million is due to the accounting treatment on the impairment of assets.

The 2008-09 expenditure on regional offices was £57 million.

The 2009-10 expenditure for the Directors of Offender Management regional organisations was £48 million.

Offenders: Deportation

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many foreign national prisoners he expects to be repatriated in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 2011. [20092]

Mr Blunt: The United Kingdom has in place prisoner transfer arrangements with over 100 countries and territories. The majority of these arrangements are voluntary agreements which require the consent of both states involved, as well as that of the prisoner concerned, before transfer can take place. In the calendar year 2010 we expect approximately 45 prisoners to have been repatriated from prisons in England and Wales (38 prisoners have transferred to date). In 2011, up to 50 prisoners are expected to be repatriated.

The repatriation of prisoners from Scotland and Northern Ireland is a matter for the relevant devolved administration.

Offenders: Mental Illness

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what arrangements he plans to make for the custody of mentally-ill offenders whom he proposes to divert into treatment. [20088]

Mr Blunt: Mentally ill offenders who require transfer and detention for treatment can be transferred to secure hospital services, if they meet the relevant clinical criteria under section 47 or section 48 of the Mental Health Act 1983. Mentally ill offenders who do not need to be in custody can access treatment from community mental health services, as part of community sentences with a mental health treatment requirement.

The Government are also exploring how more effective mental health assessment and liaison services can help identify and support police and court decisions, cases where offenders with mental health problems pose a low risk to the public, and for whom a community based approach would be justified.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what tests his Department undertake to ascertain whether an offender is mentally ill. [20089]

Mr Blunt: The responsibility for establishing whether a defendant or an offender is suffering from a mental disorder rests with qualified clinical practitioners. Such assessments can take place at any stage of the criminal justice process including at the point of arrest, during court proceedings, on reception in custody or during sentence.

Pleural Plaques Compensation Scheme

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether the next of kin of deceased claimants who would otherwise have had a valid claim under the Pleural Plaques Compensation Scheme are entitled to compensation under that scheme. [19881]

Mr Djanogly: The pleural plaques former claimants' payment scheme does not extend to dependants or to personal representatives claiming on behalf of deceased claimants.

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward proposals to extend the *(a)* eligibility criteria and *(b)* period for which the Pleural Plaques Compensation Scheme will be open. [19883]

Mr Djanogly: There are no proposals to extend the eligibility criteria or the time period for the pleural plaques former claimants' payment scheme. The scheme was set up to provide payments to those individuals who had begun, but not resolved, a legal claim for compensation for pleural plaques at the time of the 2007 House of Lords judgment, on the basis that they had an understandable expectation at the time of beginning the claim that it would result in compensation. The scheme will be open to applications for one year, which will provide sufficient time for those who are eligible to make an application.

Prisoners

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what proportion of prisoners serving custodial sentences of up to six months have *(a)* no previous convictions and *(b)* seven or more previous convictions. [20091]

Mr Blunt: The proportion of prisoners sentenced to immediate custody with sentence lengths of up to six months in 2009 who had no previous convictions was 5.6%. The figure for prisoners with seven or more previous convictions was 74.6%. The following table presents figures for the last 10 years.

Proportion of offenders who were sentenced to immediate custody with sentence length up to six months for indictable offences[1,2] by the number of previous convictions, 2000-09

Percentage

Number of previous convictions	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
No previous conviction	6.5	6.1	5.4	5.4	5.6	6.2	6.1	6.1	5.6	5.6
1-6 previous convictions	28.9	27.3	23.8	21.9	21.5	21.2	21.9	21.9	20.1	19.8
7 or more previous convictions	64.6	66.7	70.8	72.7	72.8	72.6	72.0	72.0	74.3	74.6
All offenders (100%)	36,431	37,172	39,693	42,186	42,946	40,306	39,071	40,335	43,537	37,971

[1] Including indictable and trial either ways offences.

[2] Counts of offenders sentenced during the year; an offender may be counted more than once if an offender had been sentenced more than once.

The figures are further breakdowns of the criminal history statistics presented in chapter 6 of "Sentencing Statistics, England and Wales 2009" which was published on 21 October 2010 and can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/publications/docs/sentencing-stats2009.pdf

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

Prisoners: Terrorism

Paul Goggins: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what conditions may be imposed when granting a release on licence to prisoners with convictions for terrorism; [20547]

(2) how many prisoners with convictions for terrorism offences are under consideration for release by the Parole Board; [20548]

(3) how many prisoners with convictions for terrorism offences have an earliest date for release in *(a)* 2010, *(b)* 2011 and *(c)* 2012. [20549]

Mr Blunt: All offenders convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences serving a sentence of 12 months or more are subject to statutory probation supervision on licence, with strict conditions, on release from prison.

All of these offenders are subject to standard licence conditions. Additional licence conditions may be applied, where they are necessary to manage the risks presented by an individual. Where offenders are released on the direction of the Parole Board, the board will set the licence conditions. Where offenders are released automatically from custody, licence conditions will be set by the governor of the releasing prison.

A Probation Instruction (PI 13/2010) was issued on 27 September 2010 on the subject of licence conditions. This instruction replaced previous policy guidance on licence conditions and includes a menu of licence conditions for those convicted of terrorism or terrorism related offences.

Two prisoners, one from a previous terror campaign, are subject to consideration for release by the Parole Board at this present time. 31 terrorist or terrorism-related prisoners will be eligible for consideration by the Parole Board for release in the future.

2010: A total of 20 offenders have or will have been released by the end of 2010. Of the 20, six have been re-released following recall. In addition, one further offender will reach his parole eligibility date in November 2010, and his release will be considered by the Parole Board in due course.

2011: A total of 18 offenders will reach their earliest date for release during the course of 2011.

2012: A total of seven offenders will reach their earliest date for release during the course of 2012.

Note:

The number of relevant offenders who will actually be released in any of the three years will depend on a number of factors, including: in the case of parole-eligible prisoners, a direction for release from the Parole Board; whether any offenders are sentenced in the intervening period to custodial sentences; and whether offenders appeal successfully against the length of their sentence.

Prisons: Education

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with the Prison Service on educational and training opportunities within HM prisons; and if he will make a statement. [20919]

Mr Blunt: I meet frequently with officials from the National Offender Management Service, including those responsible for prisons, and discuss a range of issues including prisoner learning and skills.

A review of offender learning is being undertaken jointly by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills and the Ministry of Justice. The review will make recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of such arrangements.

Prisons: Population

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the evidential basis was for his decision to reduce the prison population by 3,000 by 2014. [20076]

Mr Blunt: The Government's expectation that the prison population will be 3,000 fewer by 2014 is based on (a) prison population projections and recent population trends and (b) our new approach to sentencing and rehabilitation which we will outline in a Green Paper later this year, with an accompanying impact assessment.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) what steps he plans to take to reduce the prison population by 3,000 by 2014. [20093]

(2) whether he plans to reduce the numbers of suspects held on remand. [20219]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice will publish a Green Paper later this year setting out plans to reform sentencing and rehabilitate offenders more effectively. The Green Paper will set out our approach to reducing the prison population, including our approach to the use of remand.

Probation Service

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the effect on prison numbers of reductions to the probation service budget in the financial year *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [20409]

Mr Blunt: The probation budget for 2010-11 is £864 million compared to £894 million 2009-10. Before the new Probation Trust arrangements came into general operation in April 2010, all trusts and potential trusts were required to demonstrate how they would drive down costs and improve performance. There is no evidence that the savings that have been achieved have had any adverse impact on performance, and as such these savings are not expected to adversely impact on the prison population. Internal resource allocations for the spending review 2010 period have not yet been decided, but we have already been clear that a large part of our savings will be achieved through improvements in efficiency and cutting administration.

Redundancy: Public Expenditure

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies from frontline posts in his Department to be incurred under the proposals in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [20090]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: My Department is developing firm plans to deliver its priorities within the funding baselines announced in the Spending Review. We will be consulting widely on proposals for change but as yet no internal budgets have been set. Preliminary estimates suggest that the Department will lose around 14,000-15,000 posts, including a significant reduction in our headquarters and administrative areas. Preliminary modelling assumptions split the posts between 10,000 in the National Offender Management Service, 3,000 in courts and tribunals services and 1,000-2,000 elsewhere in the Department over the four-year period. Where possible, staff reduction will be through natural turnover and voluntary redundancy, avoiding compulsory redundancies if possible.

My Department's response to the Spending Review marks the beginning of a programme of radical change which will fundamentally reform the way justice is provided by 2015. I am confident that the process will lead to a transformed Ministry of Justice which is efficient and affordable.

Reparation by Offenders

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how much his Department spent on community payback schemes in each year since 2005; and how much it plans to spend on such schemes in each of the next three years. [20084]

Mr Blunt: Reliable year-by-year information on the expenditure on community payback by probation trusts for the past five years is not available. A cost collection exercise in 2008-09 estimated that roughly £95 million was spent on unpaid work but the estimate is not considered robust. The National Offender Management Service is currently introducing a new costing system for probation trusts which will collect reliable information on both budgeted and actual expenditure on unpaid work. Budgets for unpaid work are set locally by providers and commissioners and will be determined in the light of the Spending Review settlement. Allocations within the Ministry of Justice to business groups, including the National Offender Management Service, are yet to be decided but will reflect the impact of the forthcoming Green Paper on Sentencing Reform and need to deliver services as efficiently as possible including through the use of the new competition framework for unpaid work.

Sentencing

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many community sentences he expects to be handed down in each of the next four years. [20083]

Mr Blunt: We have no targets for the number of community sentences to be imposed over the next four years. We want to see sentencing that is effective in rehabilitating offenders so that they do not offend again. This includes increased use of community sentences where they are more effective than short prison sentences in providing punishment and rehabilitation, and in helping offenders come off drugs.

Over the 11 years to 2009 the numbers of community sentences imposed on adults and juveniles are shown in the following tables.

Persons sentenced to community sentences at all courts by type of community sentence, 1999 to 2009—England and Wales

Number of persons and percentage

Type of community sentence	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
All offences						
Total persons sentenced	1,397,786	1,414,188	1,338,522	1,410,505	1,479,812	1,536,825
Percentage given community sentences	10.8	11.0	12.3	13.2	12.9	13.1
Community sentences:						
Community rehabilitation order[1]	58,368	56,459	58,947	63,781	63,202	60,661
Supervision order	12,679	11,556	11,083	10,502	9,870	10,119
Community punishment order[1]	49,597	49,983	49,764	50,791	50,382	53,886
Attendance centre order	8,679	7,041	5,824	4,031	3,283	3,432
Community punishment and rehabilitation order[1]	20,733	19,241	14,662	15,484	15,159	15,972
Curfew order	1,577	2,597	3,863	6,266	9,599	15,142
Reparation order	—	3,984	7,975	5,004	3,111	3,087
Action plan order	—	4,356	8,650	6,181	4,348	4,486
Drug treatment and testing order	—	321	4,229	5,272	7,058	8,596
Referral order[2]	—	—	—	19,208	25,410	26,122
Community order[3]	—	—	—	—	—	—
Total community sentences	151,633	155,538	164,997	186,520	191,422	201,503

Number of persons and percentage

Type of community sentence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
All offences					
Total persons sentenced	1,473,275	1,412,940	1,406,788	1,353,937	1,397,310
Percentage given community sentences	13.9	13.5	14.0	14.0	14.0
Community sentences:					
Community rehabilitation order[1]	33,583	3,854	2,282	2,033	1,720

Number of persons and percentage

Type of community sentence	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Supervision order	10,600	11,196	11,952	9,642	8,071
Community punishment order[1]	34,808	5,832	2,541	2,070	1,819
Attendance centre order	3,305	3,169	3,455	2,868	2,516
Community punishment and rehabilitation order[1]	10,812	2,268	1,588	1,598	1,708
Curfew order	12,129	6,511	6,594	6,710	7,077
Reparation order	3,217	3,745	4,055	4,066	3,559
Action plan order	4,832	4,867	4,865	4,074	3,242
Drug treatment and testing order	5,541	306	38	10	3
Referral order[2]	29,958	30,070	32,142	29,423	28,139
Community order[3]	55,462	119,019	126,912	127,677	137,911
Total community sentences	204,247	190,837	196,424	190,171	195,765

[1] Some community sentences were renamed in April 2001. Community rehabilitation order was previously probation order, community punishment order was previously community service order and community punishment and rehabilitation order was previously combination order.

[2] Referral orders were introduced nationally on 1 April 2002. The figures include extensions of referral orders (retrospectively for 2002-04).

[3] The community order was introduced on 4 April 2005 and applies to offences committed on or after that date.

Persons sentenced to community sentences and percentage sentenced to community sentence by age and sex, 1999 to 2009—England and Wales

Number of persons and percentage

Age		*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*
All persons							
Aged 10-17	Total number sentenced	90,160	91,480	95,485	94,548	92,531	96,188
	Number given community sentences	30,623	35,972	42,859	54,187	54,952	56,715
	Percentage given community	34.0	39.3	44.9	57.3	59.4	59.0
Aged 18-20	Total number sentenced	165,412	162,090	157,907	159,384	162,067	156,399
	Number given community sentences	26,934	26,499	26,368	26,743	26,462	27,460
	Percentage given community	16.3	16.3	16.7	16.8	16.3	17.6
Aged 21 and over	Total number sentenced	1,142,214	1,160,618	1,085,130	1,156,572	1,225,214	1,284,238
	Number given community sentences	94,076	93,067	95,770	105,590	110,008	117,328
	Percentage given community	8.2	8.0	8.8	9.1	9.0	9.1
All ages	Total number sentenced	1,397,786	1,414,188	1,338,522	1,410,504	1,479,812	1,536,825
	Number given community sentences	151,633	155,538	164,997	186,520	191,422	201,503
	Percentage given community	10.8	11.0	12.3	13.2	12.9	13.1

Number of persons and percentage

Age		*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
All persons						
Aged 10-17	Total number sentenced	96,203	93,806	97,387	88,375	81,490
	Number given community sentences	61,106	61,498	66,007	60,043	55,923
	Percentage given community	63.5	65.6	67.8	67.9	68.6

Number of persons and percentage

Age		*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Aged 18-20	Total number sentenced	146,051	142,694	140,276	137,575	141,884
	Number given community sentences	26,756	24,879	25,314	24,259	26,031
	Percentage given community	18.3	17.4	18.0	17.6	18.3
Aged 21 and over	Total number sentenced	1,231,021	1,176,440	1,169,125	1,127,987	1,173,936
	Number given community sentences	116,385	104,460	105,103	105,869	113,811
	Percentage given community	9.5	8.9	9.0	9.4	9.7
All ages	Total number sentenced	1,473,275	1,412,940	1,406,788	1,353,937	1,397,310
	Number given community sentences	204,247	190,837	196,424	190,171	195,765
	Percentage given community	13.9	13.5	14.0	14.0	14.0

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what definition of a short sentence his Department uses. [20085]

Mr Blunt: There is no legal definition of a short custodial sentence but for most purposes the Department categorises a short custodial sentence as one where the headline sentence is under 12 months.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent representations the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism has received from the Jewish community; and if he will make a statement. [20255]

Andrew Stunell: The cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism is made up of officials from across Government and senior representatives of the Jewish community and therefore is in regular receipt of representations from the Jewish community on issues of concern.

Audit Commission

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the National Audit Office assuming the Audit Commission functions regarding *(a)* value for money studies and *(b)* the exercise of public interest responsibilities by auditors. [20215]

Robert Neill: My Department is working with the Audit Commission, the National Audit Office and other partners to consider a range of options for the functions currently undertaken by the Commission, including value for money studies. As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government announced on 13 August, district auditors will retain a duty for reporting issues in the public interest. It is not envisaged that the National Audit Office will assume any of the Audit Commission's functions in this respect.

My Department has not yet made any estimate of the cost and savings that would arise if the National Audit Office assumed any of the Audit Commission's functions. Any such cost and savings will be reflected in the impact assessment which we will publish when introducing any legislation to effect these changes.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the purpose was of the Audit Commission's payment of £1,434 to SPA Landscaping in 2009-10; and what works were undertaken. [20427]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

SPA Landscaping provided grounds maintenance services at Audit Commission offices at Littlemoor House in Eckington. The payment of £1,434 was in respect of services provided in accordance with the specification and contract for grounds maintenance at that site.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was in respect of which the Audit Commission paid £1,897 to St Martin-in-the-Fields in 2009-10. [20428]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

St Martin-in-the-Fields was used as a venue for a joint media launch of the Oneplace website and the publication of the first set of Comprehensive Area Assessment (CAA) reports. It took place on 7 December 2009. This was a joint event with the CAA partner inspectorates (Ofsted, Care Quality Commission, HM Inspectorate of Constabulary, HM Inspectorate of Prisons and HM inspectorate of Probation) and was attended by members of the national and trade media.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was in respect of which the Audit Commission paid £3,650 to the Science Museum in 2009-10; [20429]

(2) what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was in respect of which the Audit Commission paid £1,545 to Digby Trout Restaurants Ltd in the category of learning and development services in 2009-10. [20430]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Questions have been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The questions relate to the same event so I am responding to them in the same letter.

In Spring 2009, the Audit Commission's Local Government and Assessment Directorate underwent a restructure as it took on responsibility for the new Comprehensive Area Assessment. A one day core team workshop took place on 12 May 2009 as part of the preparation for this major national initiative.

Workshop facilities at the Science Museum provided confidential discussion space and adjoining breakout rooms for working sessions. The figure quoted covered the cost of the venue and equipment hire.

Digby Trout Restaurants Ltd are the venue's in-house caterers and the payment was the total cost of catering at the basic day delegate catering rate.

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was in respect of which the Audit Commission paid £15,025 to Steps Drama Learning Development in 2009-10. [20431]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

Steps Drama Learning Development are training specialists who work with a wide variety of clients in the public and private sectors, including HSBC, British Airways and the NHS. The Commission worked with Steps on a number of occasions in 2009-10.

(1) Steps ran four workshops on 15 & 17 July and 10 & 20 August for the Human Resources department. This was a programme developed to help staff understand and address areas of concern identified in our 2009 employee survey.

(2) Steps contributed to three development centres for potential Principal Auditors in February and March 2010. Steps staff developed realistic scenarios to test the auditors' client relationship skills.

Audit Commission: Conflict Management Plus

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure of £3,851 on Conflict Management Plus in 2008-09. [20105]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

In September 2008, following a competitive tender, the Commission engaged Conflict Management Plus to assist us in developing our managers to resolve staff disputes and difficulties. Conflict Management Plus attended a one day review workshop and subsequently advised us on the best approach for managers.

Audit Commission: Connaught

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure of £19,545 on the New Connaught Rooms in 2008-09. [20111]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission incurred this expenditure for two events in 2008-09.

30 September 2008—A senior stakeholder briefing, bringing together local authorities and PCTs to discuss the new framework for Comprehensive Area Assessment.

1 December 2008—An internal staff briefing event to discuss restructuring. This venue was used to accommodate the large number of staff in attendance. The Commission does not have offices big enough to facilitate this kind of event.

Audit Commission: Consultants

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what programmes or projects undertaken by the Audit Commission strategic consultancy was provided by *(a)* Deloitte, *(b)* GFK NOP Limited, *(c)* Jodi Berg, *(d)* Lawson Wright Ltd, *(e)* OPM - London, *(f)* PA Consulting Services and *(g)* Ville and Company in 2009-10. [20421]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

You asked for Information on consultancy work provided by a number of firms in 2009-10. These details are as follows:

(a) Deloitte LLP

Deloitte provided expert knowledge on treasury management for the review of local authority treasury management, Risk and Return: English Local Authorities and Icelandic Banks, published in March 2009.

(b) GFK NOP Ltd

GFK NOP is a leading market research organisation, it was appointed to undertake an employee attitude survey in January 2009.

(c) Jodi Berg

Jodi Berg, the independent Complaints Reviewer, provides the third stage of the Audit Commission's complaints process. Because the Commission does not come under the remit of an Ombudsman, the Commission's Board, which is responsible for the complaints process, decided that an independent stage was necessary.

Further information on the full complaints process is published on the Commission's website at:

http://www.audit-commission.gov.uk/aboutus/contactus/complaints/pages/default.aspx

and information on the services provided by the ICR on her website at:

http://www.icrev.org.uk

(d) Lawson Wright Ltd

Lawson Wright Ltd is an HR consultancy company. It provided a confidential helpline service to staff.

(e) OPM - London

OPM carried out work assessing the costs to local authorities of meeting the requirements of the Comprehensive Performance Assessment and Comprehensive Area Assessment processes. Its report was published in March 2010.

(f) PA Consulting Services

PA Consulting Services was engaged to support the Commission's Continuous Improvement and Innovation Programme. This was designed to deliver efficiency savings. PA Consulting provided specialist skills and support.

(g) Ville and Company

Ville & Company provided a briefing on decision-making on the allocation of teaching resources by maintained schools. This was incorporated in Valuable Lessons, published in June 2009.

Ville and Company also scoped a potential study of local authorities' spending on energy, as part of the Commission's process for selecting its study programme.

Following the Commission's decision to end Use of Resources assessments, Ville local audit work could best help PCTs improve value for money.

Audit Commission: Exeter Golf and Country Club

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure on (i) Exeter Golf and Country Club, (ii) Malmaison Hotel, (iii) Hotel du Vin and Bistro, (iv) The Royal Horseguards and (v) South West Lakes in 2008-09. [20109]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission incurred expenditure in 2008-09 as follows:

(a) Exeter Golf and Country Club - This venue was used to hold a stakeholder briefing for Finance Directors from the Local Government and Health sectors. The event took place on 4/5 February 2009 and was part of the Final Accounts Local Government and NHS Conference.

(b) Malmaison Hotel - This venue was used for a staff training event held over a three day period, from 16-18 July 2008. The Commission does not have offices big enough to facilitate this kind of event.

(c) Hotel du Vin and Bistro - The Commission incurred this expenditure for two events. We hosted the Housing Excellence Awards Lunch at Hotel du Vin and Bistro on 17 June 2008 that was held during the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference. We also held a strategic studies development event at the Malmaison in Birmingham on 16 June 2008, which at the time was part of the Hotel du Vin group.

(d) The Royal Horseguards - The Audit Commission held Parliamentary Dinners for MPs from all three main political parties to brief them on our national reports and studies programme and on Comprehensive Area Assessment. It was also an opportunity for MPs to raise with us any areas of concern, or where they felt the Commission could assist. These dinners were held in October/November 2008 and February 2009.

In July 2008 we hosted a dinner for Chief Executives of Housing Associations to discuss the key changes affecting the housing environment, such the Housing and Regeneration Bill, the state of the housing market and the introduction of short life inspections on housing associations by the Audit Commission.

In November 2008 we hosted a CAA Cross Inspectorate dinner to discuss the development of the new performance framework for local authorities. We also hosted a seminar of senior representatives from the NHS, the Dept of Health, other national bodies and private sector providers of information to discuss data quality in the NHS and how it could be improved.

(e) South West Lakes - This venue was used for staff team meetings in November 2008 and January 2009. The Commission does not have offices big enough to facilitate this kind of event.

Audit Commission: Historic Royal Palaces

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure of £3,450 on Historic Royal Palaces Enterprise in 2008-09. [20107]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 20120:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me for reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission paid a deposit of 30 per cent on 30 December 2008 (£3,450) to secure the Banqueting House as a venue for the Vil Eurorai Congress. The event took place on 4 October 2010.

Eurorai is a network of over 70 regional audit bodies in Europe and has been in place for nearly 20 years. It exists to enable practising auditors in different regions and countries to share experiences and learning.

A congress is held every three years and the Region of the President elect is the host for this event. In 2007, we agreed that we would act as the host and plans have been underway to organise the congress for the last three years. Following the Secretary of State's announcement on 13 August of the Audit Commission's abolition, we considered our position and agreed to go ahead with the congress and fulfil our commitment.

The congress was fully funded by Eurorai, and the dinner at Banqueting House by a small contribution from the Audit Commission and partner agencies including from the accountancy profession and some private sector audit firms. The Audit Commission's costs were in the region of £5,000.

Audit Commission: London Zoo

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure of £13,470 on Leith's at London Zoo in 2008-09. [20110]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission did not incur expenditure of this amount at Leith's at London Zoo.

The Audit Commission did make a payment of this amount to Leith's at The British Library. The occasion was a two-day Appointed Auditors Conference held on 29/30 April 2009.

Audit Commission: Marketing

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what marketing projects were undertaken for the Audit Commission by *(a)* Grant Riches, *(b)* HSAG Design and *(c)* Ocean Media Group in 2009-10. [20422]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The following marketing projects were undertaken:

(a) Grant Riches provided the Commission with additional support to help promote Comprehensive Area Assessment and the associated Oneplace website.

(b) HSAG Design helped us develop extensions to our visual identity guidelines. This is a document that prescribes how we produce everything from stationery through to exhibition signs. It provides guidelines on how to use corporate colours and design to comply with good practice on accessibility for partially sighted people.

(c) Ocean Media Group runs the Chartered Institute of Housing's (CIH) annual conference. The payment to it was for the Commission's presence at the 2009 CIH conference in Harrogate.

Audit Commission: Marks' Home and Garden

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure of £940 on Marks' Home and Garden maintenance services in 2008-09. [20102]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

In July 2008, the Audit Commission used Marks' Home and Garden maintenance services to clear the driveway and surrounding area at our Ipswich offices.

Audit Commission: Nineteen Restaurant

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and (c) occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure at (i) Nineteen Restaurant, (ii) L'Oranger Restaurants Ltd, (iii) the London Hilton and (iv) 60 Hope Street in 2008-09. [20108]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave. The Audit Commission incurred expenditure in 2008-09 as follows:

Nineteen Restaurant

The Audit Commission used to allocate funding for social events at Christmas and on this occasion staff in our North Yorkshire Office used this venue. Following a Board decision, this funding was subsequently withdrawn across the Commission from June 2009.

L'Oranger Restaurants Ltd

The Audit Commission hosted a dinner for senior stakeholders at L'Oranger restaurant on 8 December 2008 to discuss the development of the new performance framework for local authorities, Comprehensive Area Assessment. The purpose was to ensure that the design of the new framework took account of the views of senior figures in local government and the dinner formed part of a wider consultation process.

The London Hilton

The Audit Commission's Senior Management Team, which consists of the Chief Executive and Managing Directors, held a strategy meeting at the London Hilton on 10 March 2008. The purpose of this meeting was to discuss the development of CAA following the consultation process with senior stakeholders.

60 Hope Street

The Audit Commission hosted a dinner for senior stakeholders at 60 Hope Street Restaurant on 19 January 2009 to discuss the development of the new performance framework for local authorities, Comprehensive Area Assessment. The purpose was to ensure that the design of the new framework took account of the views of senior figures in local government and the dinner formed part of a wider consultation process.

Audit Commission: Official Hospitality

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on *(a)* hospitality, *(b)* hotel accommodation and *(c)* communications, marketing and public relations in each of the last three financial years. [20158]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

a) The Audit Commission spent the following sums on hospitality in each of the last three years. In order to be consistent with data previously provided for the Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey we have defined hospitality as the provision of food and beverages at our own premises.

	£
2007-08	211,845
2008-09	229,134
2009-10	289,271

b) The Audit Commission spent the following sums on hotel accommodation in each of the last three years. This includes all expenditure booked through Expotel, which provides access to negotiated government hotel rates, for staff required to work away from their home base and stay overnight. In line with data previously published as part of the Public Sector Procurement Expenditure Survey this excludes expenditure on training and events.

	£
2007-08	1,246,815
2008-09	1,910,944
2009-10	1,614,953

c) The Audit Commission spent the following sums on communications, marketing and public relations in each of the last three years. This excludes staff salaries but includes all other expenditure undertaken by the Communications and Public Reporting function such as the production and publication of audit inspection and study reports, responding to media enquiries, website maintenance, conferences, exhibitions and internal communications.

	£
2007-08	1,547,570
2008-09	1,301,354
2009-10	1,163,643

Audit Commission: Oval Events

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion of the Audit Commission's expenditure on Oval Events was in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [20222]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The purpose of the spending on Oval Events was:

2008/09—6 one-day training events on non-cricket days

2009/10—1 one-day training event on a non-cricket day

The cost of each event was approximately £2,000. The number of attendees ranged from 24 to 32.

Audit Commission: Press Cuttings

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much the Audit Commission spent on *(a)* press cuttings and *(b)* opinion research in each of the last three financial years. [20112]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission's press cutting agency is Durrants and we use them for national, regional, local and trade cuttings and for media evaluation. The Commission spent £66,282 in 2007/08; £42,194 in 2008/09; and £52,758 in 2009/10.

The Commission has spent the following amounts on opinion research: £70,881 in 2007/08; £54,206 in 2008/09; and £73,192 in 2009/10. The Commission has defined opinion research as contact with its stakeholders to elicit views on the Commission as an organisation and on the services it provides.

Audit Commission: Progressive Resources Ltd

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose, *(b)* date and *(c)* occasion was for which the Audit Commission incurred expenditure of £6,850 on Progressive Resources Ltd in 2008-09; and what the nature was of the teambuilding events that took place. [20106]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Peter Wilkinson, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

In October 2008, we decided to merge two sub-regions, South East and South Central. In doing so we reduced costs and increased productivity through economies of scale. The merger did, however, bring its own major challenges and it was recognised that the integration of the two former teams required substantial change.

We therefore held an event over two days on 10/11 December 2008, using Progressive Resources Ltd. We had major sessions on audit quality; connecting audit and Comprehensive Area Assessment; and values and expectations. We also included representatives from the accounting firms, who joined us on day two. Around 200 delegates attended the event.

Progressive Resources Ltd provides corporate team building events to large multi-nationals as well as public sector organisations.

Audit Commission: Public Finances

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the charging structure for local government audit work undertaken by private auditors following the end of the Audit Commission; what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of such work in each of the next three years; and if he will make a statement. [20052]

Robert Neill: My Department is working with the Audit Commission, the National Audit Office and other partners to consider a range of options for the future of local audit following the disbandment of the Commission, including options for moving the Commission's in-house audit practice into the private sector. This work includes making estimates of the costs and savings of options, a process which is currently in progress. All such costs and savings will be reflected in the impact assessment which we will publish when introducing any legislation to effect these changes.

Audit Commission: Smith Institute

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what payments the Audit Commission made to the Smith Institute in each of the last three financial years; and for what purposes and projects. [20104]

Robert Neill: This is an operational matter for the Audit Commission and I have asked the chief executive of the Audit Commission to write to my hon. Friend directly.

Letter from Andy McKeon, dated 1 November 2010:

Your Parliamentary Question has been passed to me to reply on behalf of the Chief Executive who is currently on annual leave.

The Audit Commission has made one payment of £10,000 to the Smith Institute (in August 2008) during the last three financial years. The payment was sponsorship for a project on the future of public sector regulation.

The Smith Institute was planning to conduct an expert round table and publish and launch a monograph of essays on the future of public sector regulation. The Smith Institute sought additional sponsorship for the event and publication. However, the project was subsequently cancelled and the Smith Institute agreed to refund £9,250 to the Audit Commission.

Carers: Public Expenditure

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make arrangements to ensure that local authorities do not reduce services essential to *(a)* carers and *(b)* disabled people following the comprehensive spending review; and if he will make a statement. [20058]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

The spending review recognises the importance of social care in protecting the most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging fiscal climate, the coalition Government has allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

We have achieved this by:

the NHS transferring some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will be up to £1 billion in 2014-15; and

additional grant funding, rising to £1 billion by 2014-15, will be made available for social care. This funding will be allocated in addition to the Department's existing social care grants, which will rise in line with inflation. Total grant funding from the Department for social care will reach £2.4 billion by 2014-15. In order to support local flexibility and to reduce administrative burdens, this funding will go to authorities through the revenue support grant.

Coal: Mining

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what recent assessment he has made of the economic, social and cultural needs of former coalmining areas; and if he will make a statement; [20056]

(2) what recent research his Department has *(a)* evaluated, *(b)* commissioned and *(c)* undertaken on regeneration strategies for former coalmining areas; and if he will make a statement. [20059]

Andrew Stunell: The Department for Communities and Local Government commissioned a review of coalfields regeneration led by Michael Clapham. The Coalfields Regeneration Review Report was presented to Government in September 2010.

The review looked at all aspects of coalfields regeneration, including the economic, social and cultural needs of coalfield areas. The review considered data and evidence provided by delivery bodies, including the Coalfields Regeneration Trust, the Homes and Communities Agency, local authorities, Communities and Local Government analysts and other Government Departments. It also considered previous research, particularly the report from the Audit Commission ('A mine of opportunity: local authorities and the regeneration of the English Coalfields (2008)').

The Review Board also carried out a consultation exercise seeking views from a wide range of bodies on coalfields regeneration, including local authorities, voluntary organisations and social enterprises.

Government are considering the recommendations made in the report and intend to respond formally in November.

A full copy of the report, which includes all the data referred to above, is available on the Communities and Local Government website at:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/regeneration/reviewcoalfieldsregeneration

Council Housing

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of geographical variations in market rents in formulating the proposal to raise the rents of new council tenants to 80% of market rent; and if he will make a statement. [20808]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the implementation of new "affordable rent" tenure shortly.

Council Tax: Medway

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many properties there are in each council tax band in the Medway Council area; and how many in each band are long-term empty dwellings. [20544]

Robert Neill: The numbers of properties and empty domestic dwellings in the Medway council area in each council tax band as at 5 October 2009 are shown in the following table.

		Of which:
	Number of properties	*Long term empty*
A	10,803	317
B	37,109	530
C	32,334	277
D	16,181	105
E	7,960	70
F	3,330	22
G	1,207	7
H	66	4
Total	108,990	1,332

The data are taken from the Council Tax Base and Council Tax Base (Supplementary) forms completed annually in October by all billing authorities in England and returned to the Department for Communities and Local Government.

Emergency Services

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of the regional fire and emergency response programme. [20423]

Robert Neill: The current estimated cost of the FiReControl project is £423 million, initiated by the last Government.

The FiReControl project is over-budget and behind schedule. The new Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of *(a)* the likely date of commissioning of the new regional fire and emergency response centres and *(b)* the cost to the public purse of the construction programme for these centres. [20424]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government have activated a milestone in its contract with the main contractor EADS for the completed IT system to be delivered in the first three control centres by mid-2011. The first fire and rescue services would switch over their control room operations some time after this, when they had completed preparations to their satisfaction, including the final test of the system, training and data input.

The control centres were procured through a private developer scheme, so the total costs of the land, construction, fit-out and plant are paid through lease payments over a 20 or 25 year period.

As with all major Government projects FiReControl is being reviewed to ensure value-for-money for the taxpayer. We have been clear that EADS (now branded as Cassidian) must deliver to time, cost and quality. This Government are not prepared to pour any more taxpayers' money into funding their further delays, nor can they cut any corners in the quality of the system they deliver.

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the additional *(a)* costs of and *(b)* savings from an immediate termination of the regional fire and emergency response centre programme. [20425]

Robert Neill: We are currently working with the FiReControl project contractor EADS to ensure they deliver the main IT system to time, cost and quality.

If it were to become necessary to terminate the project, the only contracts to which significant cancellation charges could apply would be those awarded to EADS for the integrated system and Babcock for facilities management of the control centre buildings. These cancellation charges could vary significantly depending on the circumstances in which the contracts were cancelled. Specific arrangements set out in these contracts cannot be disclosed due to commercial confidentiality. Savings could also accrue from the cancellation of these contracts as well as from the cessation of national team staffing costs and local implementation costs paid to fire and rescue authorities which are currently funded for this work under New Burdens principles.

Savings generated would be offset by ongoing liabilities for the control centre buildings. If the project were cancelled the Department would seek to identify suitable third parties to make use of the accommodation and contribute to costs.

As with all major Government projects FiReControl is being reviewed to ensure value-for-money for the taxpayer. We have been clear that EADS (now branded as Cassidian) must deliver to time, cost and quality. This Government are not prepared to pour any more taxpayers' money into funding their further delays, nor can they cut any corners in the quality of the system they deliver.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the implications for the current round of the European Regional Development Fund of the abolition of regional development agencies. [20116]

Robert Neill: We are currently considering the future arrangements for running European regional development fund programmes in the regions, after the abolition of the regional development agencies, and we will make an announcement when the decision has been reached.

Fire Services: North East

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the timetable is for the establishment of the regional control centre for the fire service for the north-east. [21114]

Robert Neill: The control centre in the north-east, at Durham, is fully constructed and fitted out. The Department for Communities and Local Government has activated a key milestone in its contract with the main FiReControl contractor EADS (now branded Cassidian) requiring them to deliver the completed IT system in three control centres by mid-2011. The north-east control centre is one of these. The first Fire and Rescue Services would switch over after this, when they had completed their preparations, including data input, training and the final assurance testing test.

The FiReControl project, initiated by the last Government, is over-budget and behind schedule. As with all major Government projects it is being reviewed to ensure value for money for the taxpayers. We have been clear that EADS must deliver to time, cost and quality. The new Government are committed to ensuring value for money for the taxpayer, improving resilience and stopping the forced regionalisation of the fire service.

Fire Services: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many *(a)* full-time and *(b)* retained firefighters there are in each fire station in (i) Bassetlaw and (ii) Nottinghamshire. [20892]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

The latest levels of staffing of wholetime and retained firefighters are collected for each Fire and Rescue Authority. Figures for Nottinghamshire and England are provided in the following table.

Levels of staffing of wholetime and retained firefighters in Nottinghamshire and England at 31 March 2010

	Number
Wholetime[1]	
Nottinghamshire	565
England	29,735
Retained Duty System[2]	
Nottinghamshire	198
England	11,899

[1] Full-time equivalent.

[2] In 24-hour units of cover.

Source:

Fire and Rescue Services Annual Returns to CLG

Fire Services: Strikes

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent discussions *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials have had with the Mayor of London on strike action by London fire crews; what assessment he has made of the adequacy of contingency arrangements in such circumstances; and if he will make a statement. [20162]

Robert Neill: As I indicated in my statement to the House on the 26 October, I am in regular contact with the London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority. They have reassured me that their contingency arrangements worked during the eight-hour strike on the 23 October and will work for any future strikes.

My Department is also working to ensure that in the event of a major incident, the National Co-ordination and Advisory Framework arrangements, overseen by the chief fire and rescue adviser, will ensure the deployment of any necessary specialist equipment.

Grants: Expenditure

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* purpose and *(b)* programme or project of each of the grants given under the LG-Interreg IIIA SE DTLR heading was in his published grant expenditure data for 2009-10. [20221]

Robert Neill: Details of the 11 projects and 13 payments, which relate to grants paid under the Franco-British Interreg IIIA programme co-financed by the European regional development fund, are given in the following table:

Supplier	*Transaction number*	*Amount in sterling (£)*	*British project reference*	*Project title*	*Purpose*	*Comments*
Medway council	2500121396	5,739.00	342	Champion—Championing Community Well-Being—A Common Cross-Border Imperative	Enhancing the well-being of citizens in Medway and Grande-Synthe through improvements to their health and community services	Revenue costs
Kent county council	2500121399	226,282.00	313	Cross-Channel Greenways	Development of environmentally friendly and sustainable travel routes in Kent, Medway and the Nord Department	Revenue costs

Supplier	*Transaction number*	*Amount in sterling (£)*	*British project reference*	*Project title*	*Purpose*	*Comments*
Brighton and Hove City PCT	2500121411	14,424.00	206	Share the expertise of three health networks for the benefits of cancer patients	Steps to harmonise the treatment of cancer patients in Kent, Sussex and Upper Normandy by adopting best practice from each area	Revenue costs
Medway council	2500121445	26,822.00	217	Promoting the Mental Health of Young People (12-18 years)	Development of strategies to tackle social exclusion among young people in Medway and the Somme Department	Revenue costs
Medway council	2500121462	1,500.00	480	Cross-Channel waste and energy management audit at tourist sites	Identification of problems of waste generated by growing numbers of visitors to sites in the Baie de Somme and the Medway area	Revenue costs
East Sussex CC	2500121443	49,217.00	456	Community Challenge: Take Part, Make a Difference	Development of common strategies to improve waste management information and incentives for citizens of the Seine-Maritime Department and East Sussex	Revenue costs
Kent county council	2500121465	102,001.00	185	Financing of the Joint Technical Secretariat and logistical costs	Support towards four technical assistants based in Kent, Medway, East Sussex and the City of Brighton and Hove to promote the programme and develop new projects	Revenue costs
Medway council	2500121503	6,235.00	482	CONMIIXT (CONRAD and MIIXT)	Enabling citizens of Medway and Dunkirk to develop further collaboration on shared social cohesion issues	Revenue costs
East Sussex CC	2500121499	26,124.00	334	Nature Without Borders: discovering bird life and wetland	Creation of two new eco-tourism products exploring the special natural attributes of Kent, East Sussex, and the Seine-Maritime and Somme Departments	Revenue costs
East Sussex CC	2500121506	23,915.00	255	Nature Corridors for All—Phase II (Refine, Develop and Sustain)	Engaging people with learning difficulties in East Sussex, Brighton and Hove, and the Seine-Maritime Department in shared activities to support protection of the environment and wildlife	Revenue costs
East Sussex CC	2500121544	48,426.00	295	Rethinking Rubbish—Tackling our waste problems together	Identification of, and proposing solutions to, issues of growing volume of waste in communities in East Sussex and the Seine-Maritime Department	Revenue costs

Supplier	Transaction number	Amount in sterling (£)	British project reference	Project title	Purpose	Comments
East Sussex CC	2500121548	28,927.00	356	New Opportunities for Sustainable (Social and Environmental) Integration	Setting up training opportunities for disabled people and those with special needs, and improving access for them to the countryside and historical sites	Revenue costs
East Sussex CC	2500121544	6,955.00	295	Rethinking Rubbish—Tackling our waste problems together	Identification of, and proposing solutions to, issues of growing volume of waste in communities in East Sussex and the Seine-Maritime Department	Capital costs
East Sussex CC	2500121548	6,690.00	356	New Opportunities for Sustainable (Social and Environmental) Integration	Setting up training opportunities for disabled people and those with special needs, and improving access for them to the countryside and historical sites	Capital costs

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he made of the number of *(a)* statutory homelessness acceptances and *(b)* households assisted with obtaining or retaining private sector accommodation under relief and prevention of homelessness powers. [20996]

Grant Shapps: Statutory homelessness data collected include the number of households accepted by local housing authorities as eligible for assistance, unintentionally homeless and in priority need, and therefore owed a main homelessness duty (to secure that suitable accommodation is available). These are published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

The number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty was 10,100 during the second quarter of 2010 (April to June).

The latest information on local authorities' prevention and relief activities taking place outside the homelessness statutory framework can be found in the Department's Homelessness Prevention and Relief Statistical Release via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/homelessnessprevention200910

In 2009-10 there were 50,700 cases of homelessness prevention or relief where the household was assisted to obtain alternative accommodation in the private rented sector and 200 cases where the household was assisted to find a low cost home ownership or other low-cost market housing solution.

Housing Benefit

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of people likely to be affected by the increase in the age threshold for housing benefit; what estimate he has made of the likely associated costs of providing bed and breakfast accommodation for such people; and if he will make a statement. [20762]

Grant Shapps: The Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) assesses that the increase in the age threshold for the shared room rate announced in the spending review will affect around 88,000 claimants. DWP are working closely with other Departments to assess the wider impacts for affected claimants and are to publish a full impact assessment when legislation is laid before Parliament.

An additional £130 million would be made available, via DWP, to local authorities to administer discretionary housing payments to provide extra support for households where needed. I have provided a further £10 million in this financial year to London local authorities to help support those families most at risk of homelessness.

The Government are committed to tackling and preventing homelessness. I have established a new cross-Government working group on homelessness bringing together Ministers from eight Government Departments to address complex causes of homelessness and rough sleeping.

Last week I announced that over the course of the spending review over £400 million of homelessness grant will be made available to local authorities and the voluntary and community sector to support the most vulnerable and tackle homelessness. We are also continuing to invest in the Places of Change hostel improvement programme, ensuring that those coming off the streets get the support they need.

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Essex

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to make an announcement on the formation of local enterprise partnerships involving local authorities in Essex. [19573]

Robert Neill: We have today written to the leaders of Essex, Kent and East Sussex county councils inviting them to proceed with the establishment of their proposed Essex, Kent and East Sussex local enterprise partnership.

Details of all the proposed local enterprise partnerships that have been given the go-ahead to proceed are set out in the White Paper "Local Growth" which was laid before Parliament on 28 October 2010.

Local Government

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment he has made of the merits of proposals to establish joint chief executive posts for local authorities in *(a)* adjacent boroughs, *(b)* boroughs which propose to operate joint management teams and joint services and *(c)* other boroughs. [21014]

Robert Neill: As outlined in the Secretary of State's speech of 13 October 2010, a copy of which has been placed in the Library of the House, the Government are strongly supportive of councils sharing services and chief executives to deliver savings that will help protect frontline services; permission from the Department is not required. The local government sector is evaluating the opportunities offered by such approaches, including through the Local Government Group's Place Based Productivity programme. The Improvement and Development Agency has published reports on this subject in 2008 and 2009, at:

www.idea.gov.uk/idk/core/page.do?pageId=14198370

The evidence so far from this work is that joint chief executives or management teams can lead to financial savings; greater opportunities for joint procurement, and the ability to share the experience and expertise of specialist staff and other services.

Local Government Boundary Review

Mr Nuttall: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will commission a local government boundary review by 2015. [20070]

Robert Neill: The Local Government Boundary Commission for England, an independent parliamentary body established in April 2010, is responsible for the review of local government boundaries. While the Secretary of State has no role in the review of electoral boundaries he may request that the Commission review administrative boundaries. There are no plans to make such a request.

Local Government Finance

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding each local authority received from *(a)* national non-domestic rates, *(b)* revenue support grant and *(c)* ring-fenced specific grants in each of the last five financial years; and what estimate he has made of the equivalent figures for each local authority in 2011-12. [20290]

Robert Neill: I have today placed in the Library of the House a table that gives, by each local authority in England, funding received from *(a)* redistributed non-domestic rates *(b)* revenue support grant and *(c)* ring-fenced specific grants for the financial years 2005-06 to 2008-09. Figures for the financial year 2009-10 are not yet available.

Details on the provisional local government finance settlement for 2011-12 will be announced in early December.

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will reverse his decision to *(a)* remove ring-fencing from grants to local authorities and *(b)* reduce the level of support grant by 26 per cent. in the next four years. [21005]

Robert Neill: No. The coalition Government's spending review provides a fair though challenging settlement for local government. It reflects the clear priorities for the spending review as a whole: to bring down the massive budget deficit and drive economic growth, while protecting the interests of hard-working families and the most vulnerable in society.

The review also provides significant new powers for local government. Councils have long argued that with more freedom and flexibility, they would be much better equipped to become more efficient and effective in delivering local public services. This settlement delivers that freedom and flexibility, as part of the new Government's decentralisation agenda.

Microgeneration

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he is taking to discharge his obligations under section 3 (4) of the Green Energy (Definition and Promotion) Act 2009 on permitted development for microgeneration. [20435]

Robert Neill: The Government are committed to amending the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) Order 1995 to introduce permitted development rights for small-scale wind turbines and air source heat pumps on domestic properties, as part of our agenda to support renewable energy and low carbon technologies. There are a number of technical and practical issues that we are considering. We are aiming to resolve these, and to make key announcements and legislative changes as soon as possible.

Natural England: Planning Permission

Martin Vickers: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many planning applications Natural England has recommended for call-in since its establishment as a statutory consultee; and how many such applications have subsequently been called in. [20141]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* There is no comprehensive record held of the number of call-in requests made by Natural England or its predecessor, English Nature, since the statutory consultation duties were introduced in 1994. The limited data available identify four occasions when a planning application has been called in following a request from Natural England.

Outdoor Advertising

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will include in his draft national planning framework the subject of controls on outdoor advertising. [20610]

Robert Neill: It is proposed to include key policy on advertising control in the national planning framework.

Helen Goodman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will bring forward proposals to increase the powers of local authorities to determine the controls to be imposed on outdoor advertising in their areas. [20611]

Robert Neill: The Government announced on 25 May 2010 that they would bring forward a Decentralisation and Localism Bill as part of the current parliamentary Session. A list of the main elements of the Bill was published, which included planning elements. We have since confirmed on 11 October 2010 that planning enforcement measures will form part of the Bill. Further announcements on the details of these measures will be made in due course.

Silica: Quarrying

Mr Gyimah: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what targets his Department has set for the extraction of silica sand; and when he next plans to review the adequacy of such targets. [20986]

Robert Neill: The Government have no central target for the extraction of silica sand. Minerals planning authorities are expected to make provision for silica sand extraction where the resource is found, taking into account relevant national planning policy including Minerals Policy Statement 1 and Mineral Planning Guidance 15. I also refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 20 July, *Official Report*, columns 220-221W.

Sky Lanterns

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on how many occasions fire and rescue services have been alerted to incidents involving sky lanterns in each of the last three years. [21008]

Robert Neill: This information is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Social Rented Housing: Arrears

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the total amount of rent arrears owned by tenants of registered social landlords in each of the last five years. [19964]

Andrew Stunell: The total amount of rent arrears owed by tenants of registered social landlords in each of the last five years is as follows:

£ million

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
Gross arrears	361	371	396	428	452
Net arrears (after provision)	249	259	277	298	312

Social Rented Housing: Evictions

Mr Evennett: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of evictions by registered social landlords in each of the last five years. [19965]

Andrew Stunell: In the last five years the total number of evictions by registered social landlords from both general needs and supported housing is as follows:

	Total number of evictions
2006	12,145
2007	11,384
2008	11,354
2009	11,320
2010	9,905

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his proposals to set rents for social housing at 80 per cent. of market rates will apply to tenancies created by mutual exchange. [20211]

Grant Shapps: Existing tenants of local authorities and housing associations will retain their current tenancy and rent arrangements.

Supporting People Programme

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the *(a)* highest and *(b)* lowest per capita Supporting People grant allocations were in England in 2009-10. [20523]

Andrew Stunell: The Supporting People programme is not allocated on a per capita basis. Funding is allocated to top tier local authorities using the Supporting People Distribution Formula which takes account of population, level of deprivations, people at risk and other relevant needs data.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government for what reason the Supporting People redistribution formula has not been implemented. [20583]

Andrew Stunell: No decision regarding the use of the Supporting People Distribution Formula to allocate the Supporting People budget going forward has been taken. The Supporting People allocations will form part of the local government settlement due to be announced in December.

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what Supporting People grant allocations he proposes in the period of the comprehensive spending review. [20841]

Andrew Stunell: The spending review minimised reductions to the Supporting People programme, with £6.5 billion investment secured over the next four years. This represents reductions in Supporting People funding totalling 12% staged gradually over the four-year period. National budget figures for the spending review period are provided in the following table. Individual local authority allocations are not yet available and will form part of the local government settlement due to be announced in December.

Supporting People

	£ million
2011-12	1,625.00
2012-13	1,620.00
2013-14	1,620.00
2014-15	1,590.21

Supporting People Programme: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps he plans to take to increase participation in Supporting People programmes for young carers in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency. [21055]

Andrew Stunell: The Supporting People programme provides housing-related support to a wide range of vulnerable clients to enable them to remain, or move towards, living independently. The design and provision of services is a matter for each local authority based on local needs and priorities.

Supporting People Programme: Wolverhampton

Emma Reynolds: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how much his Department allocated to Wolverhampton city council under the Supporting People per capita grant allocation in 2009-10. [20522]

Andrew Stunell: The Supporting People programme is not allocated on a per capita basis. Funding is allocated to top tier local authorities using the Supporting People Distribution Formula which takes account of population, level of deprivation, people at risk and other relevant needs data. The Supporting People allocation for Wolverhampton city council in 2009-10 using the Distribution Formula was £7,997,826.

Temporary Accommodation: Homelessness

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) from which local authorities he has received representations on the use of temporary accommodation for homeless households; [20065]

(2) whether he has any plans to review the homelessness duty placed on local authorities. [20066]

Grant Shapps: The Government are committed to ensuring that there is an adequate safety net for people who are homeless. It has been argued that giving local authorities greater flexibility in how they are permitted to discharge the main homelessness duty could help to address these concerns. The Government are giving these representations careful consideration.

In addition we will be providing a further £12.25 million to local authorities and the voluntary sector to help those households that are affected by the proposed housing benefit reforms and to help improve access to the private rented sector for single homeless people.

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Karen Lumley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has to give local authorities the power to determine minimum distances between wind turbines and dwellings. [20732]

Robert Neill: Under current planning policy distances between wind turbines and dwellings are decided on a case by case basis so that local factors can be taken fully into account. Local planning authorities are already able to set out the criteria they apply in assessing applications for renewable energy development in their local plans provided this does not rule out or place constraints on development without sufficient reasoned justification.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Reduction Commitment Energy Efficiency Scheme

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what discussions his Department has had with *(a)* the Local Government Association and *(b)* local authorities on the allocation of funds from the sale of Carbon Reduction Commitment allowances; and if he will make a statement; [19960]

(2) what assessment his Department has made of the effect on local authority services of the retention by central Government of revenue from sales of Carbon Reduction Commitment allowances; [19961]

(3) what consultation his Department has had on allocating revenue raised by the Carbon Reduction Commitment; and if he will make a statement. [19962]

Gregory Barker: The Government decided not to proceed with the recycling of CRC revenues proposed by the previous Administration in order to support the public finances and contribute to the spending plans set out in the spending review, which align the allocation of public resources with the Government's overall objectives as set out in the coalition agreement. The decision has the additional benefit of creating a clearer price signal in the scheme which participants have asked for.

The clearer and stronger price signal provided by this change should reduce uncertainty and administrative costs while maintaining energy efficiency measures among participants and the commensurate savings in energy bills.

Next month, the Government will begin a consultation with CRC participants on what further steps can be taken to simplify the scheme.

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure that local areas benefit from the sale of Carbon Reduction Commitment allowances; and if he will make a statement. [19963]

Gregory Barker: Revenue from the sale of CRC allowances will be used to support the public finances and contribute to the spending plans set out in the spending review, which align the allocation of public resources with the Government's overall objectives as set out in the coalition agreement.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change (1) what his most recent estimate is of the gross revenue which will arise from the sale of allowances through the Carbon Reduction Commitment before the recycling of such moneys to scheme participants in each of the next five years; [20570]

(2) what plans he has for the future of the Carbon Reduction Commitment scheme. [20572]

Gregory Barker: Government have committed to keeping the operation of this scheme under active review with a particular eye to simplifying it and ensuring it properly incentivises those who do most to improve energy efficiency.

In order to clarify the price signal to participants and to support the public finances, including spending on the environment, as part of the comprehensive spending review the Government announced that revenue from allowance sales will not be recycled back to participants. As part of the commitment to simplify the scheme and reduce the burden on businesses, we also announced that the first allowance sales for 2011-12 emissions will now take place in 2012 rather than 2011. A public dialogue and consultation with participants on how to further simplify the scheme will begin shortly. The UK Government and devolved Administrations will consider the results of that consultation process and, subject to the views expressed, make legislative proposals to amend the CRC ahead of the second ph[illegible].

The spending review 2010 policy costings document:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/
spend_sr2010_policycostings.htm

sets out the impact on Government expenditure of not recycling the revenue to participants. A positive figure indicates a saving compared to previous plans, corresponding to the revenue expected to be generated from allowance sales each year.

Annually Managed Expenditure (AME)

	£ million
2011-12	+716
2012-13	+731
2013-14	+995
2014-15	+1,020

The decision to delay the first sale of allowances will affect the timing of these receipts.

These estimates are based on significant assumptions, particularly with respect to the quantity of emissions covered by the scheme and the uptake of energy efficiency measures within the sector. We will not know the CRC emissions coverage accurately until participants have submitted their emissions data in July 2011.

Carbon: Prices

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent discussions he has held with his EU counterparts on his plans to introduce a carbon floor price. [20437]

Gregory Barker: As part of Government duties, Ministers hold regular meetings with EU counterparts and other interested parties to discuss a range of issues. HM Treasury and HMRC will shortly publish proposals to reform the climate change levy to provide more certainty and support to the carbon price and encourage investment in low-carbon electricity generation. As part of this consultation, appropriate discussions will be held with EU counterparts, and other relevant parties.

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he has assessed the merits of introducing mechanisms to underwrite the price of carbon as part of his plans to introduce a carbon floor price. [20438]

Gregory Barker: Building on the coalition's commitment to introduce a floor price for carbon, the Chancellor, with the support of the Cabinet, announced in the June Budget that HM Treasury and HMRC would publish proposals in the autumn to reform the climate change levy to provide more certainty and support to the carbon price and encourage investment in low-carbon electricity generation. My officials have been supporting HMRC and HM Treasury in developing these proposals as well as ensuring that they are factored into considerations for wider reform of the electricity market. Full details on proposals to support the carbon price will be published as part of the HM Treasury and HMRC consultation along with an impact assessment.

Climate Change

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding he plans to allocate to international climate finance programmes in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [19828]

Gregory Barker: The UK has committed to providing £1.5 billion in fast start finance over the period 2010-2012 for both mitigation and adaptation action. A total of £511 million has so far been approved for specific multilateral programmes (subject to demonstration of value for money and results). DECC's contribution to this figure is £250 million.

The spending review provides a total of £2.9 billion of international climate finance—called the International Climate Fund (ICF)—over the spending review period. The fund will be managed collectively by the relevant Departments. From DECC's budget, we will contribute £1 billion of the total. Ministers will decide on allocations from the ICF, including the specific programmes on which the ICF will be spent, at a later stage.

Climate Change: International Cooperation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proposals he plans to table at the forthcoming UN Climate Change Conference in Cancun. [20571]

Gregory Barker: The Government are committed to working for an ambitious global deal to tackle climate change. At Cancun, we want to see substantive progress made on a politically balanced package of decisions that help re-establish momentum towards that goal.

Conferences

Matthew Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change which UK and international conferences staff of his Department have attended since October 2008; how many staff attended each conference; in what capacity such staff attended; and what the cost to the public purse under each category of expenditure was on each such occasion. [20478]

Gregory Barker: The information requested can be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding. [21527]

Gregory Barker: DECC has not made an estimate of the numbers of redundancies that may be required following the comprehensive spending review.

Reviews are currently under way to decide how the settlement will be implemented across the DECC family.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21528]

Gregory Barker: DECC has not currently made an estimate of the cost of any redundancies that may be required in each of the next four years.

Reviews are currently under way to decide how the spending review settlement will be implemented in DECC over the spending review period.

Energy Efficiency

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the performance of local authorities in rolling out local energy efficiency programmes; and if he will make a statement. [19958]

Gregory Barker: We expect and will encourage local authorities to develop stretching ambitions to tackle climate change.

Local authorities are closely involved in the roll-out of three main national energy efficiency programmes: first, the Local Carbon Frameworks pilot programme which challenges local authorities to work with individuals and other stakeholders on carbon reduction in their areas. There are nine pilot areas involving 30 local authorities.

Secondly, local authorities have a key role in delivering the Community Energy Saving Programme (CESP) which aims to drive energy efficiency improvements in low income areas. DECC is carrying out an evaluation of CESP which includes consideration of the role of local authorities in delivering the programme.

Thirdly, the Carbon Emissions Reduction Target (CERT) is an obligation placed on large energy suppliers to reduce carbon emissions from households. Most obligated CERT suppliers form partnerships with local authorities and others in helping to deliver their schemes.

We are working with the Local Government Group on its offer to DECC, which includes support for the roll-out of future energy efficiency programmes, including the Green Deal and smart meters programmes.

Energy: Housing

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what funding he plans to allocate to the Green Deal programme in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [20869]

Gregory Barker: Announcements about allocations to particular DECC programmes will be made in due course. Details of the Department's overall settlement are available on the DECC website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/news/csr_hmt_releas/csr_hmt_releas.aspx

The most significant funding for Green Deal will come through private sector investment.

Energy: Tariffs

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will include in the Energy Security and Green Economy Bill proposals for minimum standards of energy tariffs requiring energy companies to provide a customer with 12 weeks notice of *(a)* a change in tariff and *(b)* the end of a discount tariff; and if he will make a statement. [20099]

Gregory Barker: The Bill will include measures to improve energy efficiency and energy security, measures to enable low carbon generation and measures to clarify liabilities and responsibilities. We have no plans to include the very specific measures the hon. Member asks about.

Ofgem already requires energy suppliers to give customers 30 working days' notice of when a contract is due to end, together with details of the deemed contract they will be moved to if they do not enter into a new contract or switch supplier.

Ofgem has also recently consulted on requiring suppliers to give advance notice of price increases or other adverse changes to energy contracts and should be announcing the way forward shortly.

In addition, Ofgem has recently introduced new over-arching standards to prevent the selling of products that are inappropriate to a customer's needs or products that are unnecessarily complex or confusing.

Energy: Western Isles

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what steps his Department is taking to ensure that the proposed 450MW HVDC interconnector linking Na h-Eileanan an Iar constituency to the national grid will be operational by the end of this year. [19847]

Charles Hendry *[holding answer 27 October 2010]*: Decisions on the financing of the transmission link and allocation of associated risks are for the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority in line with their statutory duties. SHETL have been in discussion with Ofgem about securing sufficient developer commitment to enable the link to go ahead and will be making an announcement on the link in the near future.

High transmission charges have been cited as a possible barrier to developers of renewable generation on the Western Isles making the necessary connection commitments to finance the transmission link. That is why I have committed to look again at the case for a transmission charge adjustment scheme under section 185 of the Energy Act 2004 for the Scottish Islands alongside Ofgem's wider review of transmission charges with their Project TransmiT.

EU Emissions Trading Scheme: Carbon

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the price of carbon under the EU Emissions Trading Scheme in each of the next five years. [20436]

Gregory Barker: The following prices were published in June 2010, with estimates of the short-term traded price of carbon to be used for Government policy appraisals available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/a%20low%20carbon%20uk/carbon%20valuation/1_20100610131858_e_@@_carbonvalues.pdf

		Traded	
£2009/tCO$_2$	*Low*	*Central*	*High*
2010	7.3	14.1	17.8
2011	7.4	14.3	18.1
2012	7.5	14.5	18.3
2013	7.6	14.7	18.6
2014	7.7	14.9	18.9
2015	7.9	15.1	19.2

These prices should not be seen as forecasts; rather they are estimates of the price given the current targets in the EU emissions trading scheme. Moving to a tighter target would result in higher prices.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his policy is on the emissions cap in Phase III of the EU Emissions Trading Scheme. [20569]

Gregory Barker: The EU Emissions Trading System (EU ETS) was significantly revised as part of the EU Climate and Energy Package agreed by EU member states in 2008. The changes will take place from Phase III, which will run from 2013 to 2020, with a more ambitious, EU-wide cap on emissions. This will bring with it more emission reductions, more predictable market conditions and improved certainty for industry.

The Government support an EU move to a 30% emissions reduction target, and a significant part of this reduction should come from sectors covered by the EU ETS. An EU move to 30% would therefore mean a lower cap level, in turn delivering a higher carbon price which will stimulate investment in low carbon jobs and technologies, and help to put the EU and UK on track to meet 2050 emissions reduction targets.

Fuel Poverty

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 16 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1006, on fuel poverty, whether he plans to extend the energy rebate scheme to all low-income vulnerable households. [20504]

Gregory Barker: Energy suppliers will be required from April 2011 to provide greater help with the financial costs of energy bills to more of the most vulnerable fuel poor households, through Social Price Support—with total support of £250 million in 2011-12 rising to £310 million in 2014-15.

We anticipate that data-matching methods, similar to those which were used successfully in the Energy Rebate Scheme, will be used to target the assistance available through Social Price Support towards more of the most vulnerable households.

We intend to consult on the detailed policy design, including eligibility and targeting methods, later this year.

Offshore Industry

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change when he expects to complete the further assessments on the offshore oil and gas leasing of blocks in *(a)* Cardigan Bay and *(b)* the Moray Firth. [21035]

Charles Hendry: An environmental assessment of the potential impact of oil and gas licensing in Cardigan Bay was carried out in 2007. The assessment concluded that oil and gas licensing should not proceed at that time. The applications for a petroleum licence received during the 24th licensing round for three blocks in Cardigan Bay have been withdrawn. No applications were received during the 25th and 26th licensing rounds for blocks in Cardigan Bay. There are no further assessments planned at this time.

With regard to the inner Moray Firth, a revised environmental assessment in relation to an application for a petroleum licence for block 17/3 was issued for public consultation from 15 July to 12 October 2010. Officials are carefully considering the comments received during the public consultation and therefore I am not yet in a position to reach a decision concerning licensing of this block.

Renewable Energy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the proportion of the 15% of UK energy consumption to be achieved from renewable sources which will be attributable to wind power. [21266]

Charles Hendry: The UK's National Renewable Energy Action Plan, published in July 2010, estimated that onshore wind would contribute 34 TWh and offshore wind would contribute 44 TWh in 2020 towards a projected overall target of 238 TWh. Wind is therefore expected to contribute around a third of the target of 15% of final energy consumption.

There are no targets for individual technologies, and the actual mix of technologies that makes up the UK's achievement of the 2020 target will depend on how different technologies respond to the financial incentives put in place, and how constraints such as planning, grid, and supply chain ease over time. It should also be noted that the overall target is defined as a proportion of energy demand, which is uncertain, and thus the exact level of renewable energy required in 2020 is uncertain too.

Warm Front Scheme

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment his Department has made of the expected effect of ending the Warm Front scheme on levels of fuel poverty in the next 10 years; and if he will make a statement. [19955]

Gregory Barker: Warm Front continues to provide a range of heating and insulation measures for vulnerable households. The new Energy Company Obligation, starting in late 2012, will run in parallel with the Green Deal programme. It is intended to focus particularly on households who cannot achieve financial savings without additional support, including the poorest and most vulnerable and those in hard to treat homes. We expect energy companies to play a greater role than they do through the current obligations in ensuring the poorest and most vulnerable can afford to heat their homes adequately. This includes offering a wider range of measures which improve energy performance, such as heating systems.

Between 2007 and 2008 up to an estimated 80,000 households were prevented from falling into fuel poverty and this can be attributed to energy efficiency improvements. We will continue to monitor the impact of such measures on the fuel poor.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether owners of privately-rented accommodation are required to repay funds provided under the Warm Front scheme in circumstances in which the occupiers who were entitled to the assistance move out of that accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [20477]

Gregory Barker: The primary aim of the Warm Front scheme is to improve the thermal efficiency of private sector homes where the occupants are vulnerable to fuel poverty. The scheme is designed in such a way that while the applicant must meet specific qualifying criteria to qualify for a grant, the grant itself is then associated to the property in which they reside.

To encourage uptake of the grant and thereby assist as many qualifying households as possible, the owners of privately rented accommodation are not required to repay funds provided under the grant should a tenant who applied for the grant move out of the property.

Wind Power

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the cost to the National Grid of paying wind farm operators to turn off their turbines during periods of excess generation. [21096]

Charles Hendry: National Grid has never needed to curtail wind output because supply on a national scale exceeded demand. National Grid has made payments to wind farm operators to curtail output on two occasions. The first was a test to ensure the technical capability was present and the second was due to constraints on the transmission network. The total cost incurred was approximately £53,000.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Arts Council of England: Information Officers

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many press officers Arts Council England employed in each year from 1996-97 to 2004-05; and at what cost. [17703]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not collate this information centrally.

Accordingly, I have asked the chief executive of Arts Council England to write to the hon. Member for Burton.

Copies of the reply will be placed in the Libraries of both Houses.

Arts: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the number of arts organisations and projects likely to close as a result of reductions to the Arts Council budget announced as part of the comprehensive spending review. [20168]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The number and identity of organisations that receive funding, along with the level of that funding, is a matter for Arts Council England. As part of the spending review we have protected front-line funding for the arts, limiting the reduction to the overall budget for arts organisations to 14.9% over four years.

In 2009-10 the typical regularly funded arts organisation received 33% of its income from the Arts Council. Therefore the actual reduction in income seen by the typical arts organisation from the reductions in the Arts Council's budget will be less than 5% over four years. There will, of course, be variation between organisations.

This does not take into account changes to other sources of income not controlled centrally.

Departmental Expenditure Limits

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much and what proportion of his Department's capital departmental expenditure limit will be allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the north-west in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [19859]

Hugh Robertson: The amount and proportion of capital departmental expenditure limit (CDEL) allocated to projects and arm's length bodies (ALBs) located in London and the north-west of England over the four financial years of the spending review period is set out in tables 1, 2 and 3.

A proportion of the Department's CDEL is allocated to England or UK-wide grant schemes administered by our ALBs and to ALBs for the maintenance of multiple sites, including sites in London and/or the north-west. This is set out in tables 4 and 5. We are unable to estimate the proportion of the CDEL in tables 4 and 5 which will be allocated to London and the north-west because this will be for our ALBs to determine over the course of the spending review period. In the case of some grant schemes, our ALBs will allocate CDEL on the basis of successful applications.

Table 1: Major projects in London

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Transform Tate Modern	—	0.9	1.3	—
Cutty Sark	3	—	—	—
British Museum—North West Development	8.9	—	—	—
Total	11.9	0.9	1.3	0
Proportion of DCMS CDEL	7.70%	0.50%	1.20%	0.00%

Table 2: Core capital for ALBs in London

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
British Museum	2.7	2.7	2.7	2.7
Natural History Museum	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4
National Gallery	3.8	3.8	3.8	3.8
National Maritime Museum	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
National Portrait Gallery	0.2	0.2	0.3	0.3
Victoria and Albert Museum	1.7	1.8	1.9	2
Wallace Collection	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Sir John Soane's Museum	0	0	0	0
Horniman Museum	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Geffrye Museum	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Government Art Collection	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Commission for Architecture and the Built Environment	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
UK Sport	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
The Royal Parks Agency	0.8	0.8	0.9	0.9
DCMS central expenditure	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Total	15.1	15.4	15.8	116.1
Proportion of DCMS CDEL	9.80%	8.90%	14.60%	14.60%

Table 3: Core capital for ALBs in the north-west

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
National Museums Liverpool	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.5
Museum of Science and Industry, Manchester	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
Total	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
Proportion of DCMS CDEL	1.00%	0.90%	1.60%	1.60%

Table 4: Core capital for ALBs with multiple sites (including in London and/or the north-west)

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14*	*2014-15*
Tate Galleries	2.5	2.5	2.5	2.5
English Heritage	2.1	2.2	2.3	4.9
Arts Council England	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2
Sport England	1.6	1.6	1.7	1.8
Royal Armouries	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3
Imperial War Museum	1.9	2	2.1	2.2
National Museum of Science and Industry	2.1	2.2	2.3	2.4
British Library	2.9	3	3.2	3.3
MLA	0.1	0.1	0.1	0.1
Visit Britain	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2
BFI	0.9	1	1	1
Total	15.8	16.3	16.9	20
Proportion of DCMS CDEL	10.20%	9.40%	15.60%	18.20%

Table 5: UK/England-wide grants

	2011-12	*2012-13*	*2013-14 1.5*	*2014-15 1.5*
Wolfson Foundation	0.5	2		
Arts Council England	11.7	11.5	11.4	11.2
Listed Places of Worship	1.3	1.3	1.4	1.4
English Heritage	9.1	8.3	7.6	6.9
National Heritage Memorial Fund	0	5	10	5
Sport England	24	24	24	24
Broadband funding	45	84	15	15
Total	91.6	136.1	70.7	65
Proportion of DCMS CDEL	59.50%	78.20%	65.50%	59.10%

Horserace Totalisator Board

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to invite bids for the purchase of the Tote; and if he will make a statement. [20757]

John Penrose: The Government are now preparing to launch an open market process in which they will invite proposals from interested parties. This process will be open to all organisations who have an interest in the Tote, and the Government expect to be in a position to update the House early in the new year.

Libraries: Domestic Visits

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many libraries he has visited on official business since his appointment. [20821]

Mr Vaizey: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not made any official library visits since his appointment. However, as the Minister with responsibility for this policy area, I have made official visits to the British Library, Birmingham Central Library, Didcot Library and opened the Thame Library since my appointment.

London Olympics 2012: Bus Services

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Transport on the operation of the M4 bus lane during the London 2012 Olympics. [20819]

Hugh Robertson: The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has discussed the Olympics with the Secretary of State for Transport. Their discussions have not specifically included plans for the operation of the M4 bus lane, the details of which will be finalised in due course.

National Lottery Distribution Fund

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding has been made available to the National Lottery Distribution Fund in each year since 2005-06. [20166]

John Penrose *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* This information is already published in the annual National Lottery Distribution Fund (NLDF) accounts. Copies can be found in the House of Commons Library and online at:

www.official-documents.gov.uk

http://www.official-documents.gov.uk

National Lottery: Armed Forces

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether members of the UK armed forces posted overseas but still resident in the UK for tax purposes are eligible to play the national lottery. [19721]

John Penrose *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* The National Lottery Commission has advised that in order to be eligible to play the national lottery, players must be resident at a United Kingdom or Isle of Man address, irrespective of their tax status. Residency in this instance is determined by checks carried out by Camelot, the national lottery operator and, in practice, this means members of the armed forces can open an online interactive account and purchase games on the national lottery website, as long as they are in a country where it is legal to do so, and/or set up a direct debit account.

However, the National Lottery Commission understands that in the majority of overseas jurisdictions, local laws forbid the purchase of other foreign lotteries, including the UK national lottery. If tickets are purchased from a country where it illegal to do so, the tickets are invalid and Camelot is not able to pay any associated prizes.

The NLC have therefore required Camelot to amend the rules for national lottery games so that players will only be able to set up or amend their direct debit, or purchase games online when they are physically located in the UK and the Isle of Man. These new rules will apply from 18 December 2010. I welcome the NLC's intention to prevent people buying invalid tickets and inadvertently putting themselves at risk of prosecution in foreign jurisdictions.

I shall be writing to the NLC to thank them for their action so far, but I shall also ask them to consider what can be done in countries where the purchase of UK lottery tickets is lawful to allow armed forces personnel (and others) to participate.

Olympic Games 2012: Tickets

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what sessions at the London 2012 Olympics the "pay your age" ticketing scheme will be available; and in respect of how many such sessions that scheme will be available. [20593]

Hugh Robertson: The London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) is responsible for ticketing for London 2012. LOCOG announced pricing for Olympic tickets earlier this month, including a "Pay your Age" scheme which will make around 1.3 million tickets available to those 16 and under to pay their age (and to those 60 or over to pay £16). Full details of the specific sessions in each sport will be announced next year, but these special prices will be available across all 26 Olympic sports, and in 220 sessions—almost a third of all sessions. These will be mainly in the morning and day-time, which are most accessible for young people.

The published list of ticket prices and sessions is available on LOCOG's website at:

http://www.tickets.london2012.com/olyticketprice1.html

LOCOG will announce Paralympic ticket pricing separately, next year.

S4C: Finance

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what proportion of the funding allocation to S4C under the proposed new funding arrangements he expects to be made available for the commissioning of programmes by the independent production sector in Wales. [19626]

Mr Vaizey: All of the content budget will be spent on independent production, as it is now.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure that S4C retains full editorial and programming independence following the implementation of new funding arrangements. [19627]

Mr Vaizey: The details of the partnership between S4C and the BBC Trust have still to be developed but the Secretary of State has made it clear in his spending review allocation letter to S4C of 20 October and his funding settlement to the BBC Trust of 21 October that S4C will retain its editorial independence.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether the funds made available to S4C under his Department's proposed new arrangements will be ring-fenced in the BBC budget. [19628]

Mr Vaizey: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport's letter of 21 October 2010 to the chairman of the BBC Trust about the next television licence fee settlement set out the level of funding the BBC must provide to S4C.

From 2013-14, the cost of funding S4C will be met from a combination of continued Exchequer funding, advertising revenue and the television licence fee.

The funding figures are as follows.

£ million

	Total funding	*From DCMS*	*From BBC*
2011-12	90	90	0
2012-13	83	83	0
2013-14	83	6.7	76.3
2014-15	83	7	76

This means that S4C funding is secure for the next four years and will enable the channel to structure itself for the modern broadcasting environment.

This letter can be found using the link:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/images/publications/Jones_S4C.pdf

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will guarantee the funding allocation to S4C under the new arrangements in the spending review period after 2015. [20752]

Mr Vaizey: The Spending Review provides S4C with the certainty of a four-year funding settlement. No decisions have been made about S4C's funding arrangements after 2014-15.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what plans he has for the funding of his Department's Access to Work scheme in the period to 2014-15; and what criteria he plans to use to determine eligibility of support from the Access to Work scheme in the same period. [20443]

Chris Grayling: The Department has now received its budget settlement following the spending review. We are now in the process of setting programme budgets.

Government will continue to review welfare to work programmes to ensure the support they provide remains appropriate, effective and value for money. We are committed to ensuring disabled people are given the right support they need to get a job and remain in employment.

There are no plans at present to change the eligibility criteria for the Access to Work programme.

Cancer: Asbestos

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether compensation is available to the next of kin of those diagnosed with asbestos-induced lung cancer in circumstances in which that cancer cannot be confirmed as the sole cause of death. [19882]

Chris Grayling: We provide no-fault compensation via the industrial injuries disablement benefit (IIDB) scheme to employed earners for disablement arising from an industrial accident, or from one of the diseases prescribed in regulations. The list of prescribed diseases includes primary carcinoma of the lung where there has been exposure to asbestos in certain defined activities.

Additionally, the Pneumoconiosis etc (Workers Compensation) Act 1979 (the 1979 Act) provides a lump sum payment where a person is unable to pursue an employer for civil compensation for certain dust-related diseases. One of the diseases is primary carcinoma of the lung when accompanied by asbestosis or diffuse pleural thickening.

Where the sufferer has died, a claim for IIDB can be made on the deceased's behalf. Under the 1979 Act, a claim can be made only by a dependent, or on behalf of a dependent. For both IIDB and the 1979 Act schemes, a claim must be made within 12 months of the death of the sufferer. Benefit is payable provided that the deceased would have satisfied the conditions of entitlement during their life. The fact that primary carcinoma of the lung was not the only cause of death would not affect payment.

Carers: Finance

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely effects on his Department's provision of support for carers of his Department's settlement in the 2010 spending review; and if he will make a statement. [20769]

Maria Miller: The spending review sets out measures to secure a sustainable foundation for the future of the welfare system, delivering fairness, better work incentives and value for the taxpayer. There are no specific measures in relation to carers.

The Government recognise that the United Kingdom's 6 million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members or friends who need support.

We have set out our commitment to simplify the benefit system in order to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness. We are giving careful consideration to the needs of carers as we develop our detailed proposals for fundamental welfare reform, including any changes that may be necessary to take account of the introduction of universal credit.

Child Maintenance

Nick Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much maintenance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has collected through the statutory scheme since 1 April 2010. [16100]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, how much maintenance the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has collected through the statutory scheme since 1 April 2010. [16100].

The amount of child maintenance collected through the statutory maintenance service is routinely published in the Child Support Agency Quarterly Summary of Statistics which is available in the House of Commons library or online at:

http://www.childmaintenance.org/en/publications/stats0610.html

The total amount of maintenance collected and arranged through the statutory scheme was £283.5m in the quarter to June 2010 and £1,143.4m in the 12 months to June 2010. This includes both maintenance collected through the Child Support Agency collection service and maintenance the Child Support Agency arranged to be paid directly to parents with care by non-resident parents.

Council Tax Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much on average was paid in council tax benefit in each local authority in each of the last three years. [20994]

Steve Webb: Council tax benefit expenditure shown by local authority can be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/la_expenditure.xls

The tables contained in this publication contain expenditure data for all local authorities from 2002-03 to 2009-10.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he made of the average council tax benefit payment to *(a)* pensioner households, *(b)* working households, *(c)* households receiving jobseeker's allowances, *(d)* households receiving income support and *(e)* households receiving invalidity benefit or education support allowance in each of the last three years. [20995]

Steve Webb: The information requested on the average weekly council tax benefit paid to all households receiving incapacity benefit or employment support allowance is not available.

Information is collected on the average weekly council tax benefit payment for those also in receipt of a passported benefit, and the available information on the number who are also receiving income-based jobseeker's allowance (JSA(IB)), income support (IS) and employment and support allowance (income-based), in Great Britain, are shown in the table.

However to provide the total number of JSA, incapacity benefit (IB), and employment and support allowance (ESA) claimants receiving council tax benefit would require a significant exercise to merge the relevant data and would incur a disproportionate cost.

The available information is shown in the table:

Council tax benefit recipients average weekly award by passported benefit and age, November 2008 to July 2010

		Passported benefit					*Non-passported (standard claims)*	
	All CTB recipients	*All passported*	*Income support*	*Jobseeker's allowance (income-based)*	*Employment and support allowance (income-based)*	*All aged 65 or over*	*All non-passported*	*Of which in employment*
2008								
November	15.11	16.08	15.91	15.66	15.65	15.28	12.87	11.03

Council tax benefit recipients average weekly award by passported benefit and age, November 2008 to July 2010

		Passported benefit					*Non-passported (standard claims)*	
	All CTB recipients	*All passported*	*Income support*	*Jobseeker's allowance (income-based)*	*Employment and support allowance (income-based)*	*All aged 65 or over*	*All non-passported*	*Of which in employment*
December	15.10	16.08	15.92	15.72	15.86	15.27	12.84	10.94
2009								
January	15.10	16.09	15.92	15.77	15.97	15.27	12.84	10.93
February	15.11	16.11	15.93	15.85	16.10	15.27	12.84	10.92
March	15.26	16.24	16.05	16.04	16.33	15.40	13.04	11.31
April	15.63	16.57	16.36	16.38	16.64	15.71	13.51	12.28
May	15.62	16.58	16.37	16.40	16.67	15.70	13.46	12.11
June	15.60	16.59	16.37	16.41	16.67	15.70	13.41	11.95
July	15.60	16.59	16.38	16.41	16.67	15.70	13.37	11.82
August	15.59	16.60	16.40	16.39	16.64	15.70	13.29	11.76
September	15.58	16.59	16.39	16.36	16.59	15.69	13.27	11.72
October	15.59	16.60	16.40	16.35	16.59	15.69	13.30	11.88
November	15.77	16.61	16.41	16.35	16.61	15.75	13.85	13.61
December	15.76	16.61	16.41	16.34	16.62	15.76	13.79	13.43
2010								
January	15.74	16.61	16.41	16.34	16.63	15.75	13.76	13.38
February	15.74	16.61	16.41	16.33	16.64	15.75	13.74	13.28
March	15.83	16.71	16.50	16.41	16.73	15.85	13.86	13.48
April	16.02	16.89	16.67	16.58	16.92	16.05	14.07	13.74
May	16.00	16.89	16.67	16.55	16.91	16.04	14.01	13.58
June	15.97	16.88	16.66	16.53	16.91	16.04	13.95	13.44
July	15.94	16.88	16.66	16.50	16.90	16.04	13.91	13.33

Notes:

1. Age groups are based on the age on the count date (second Thursday in the month), of either: (a) the recipient if they are single, or (b) the elder of the recipient or partner if claiming as a couple.
2. Recipients are as at second Thursday of the month.
3. Average awards are shown as pounds per week and rounded to the nearest penny.
4. Passported status does not include recipients with unknown passported status.
5. Passported benefit as recorded on systems within the LA.
6. Average weekly amounts do not include second adult rebate cases.
7. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and July 2010 is the latest available.
8. People claiming council tax benefit not in receipt of a passported benefit are recorded as being in employment, if their local authority has recorded employment income from either the main claimant, or partner of claimant (if applicable), in calculating the housing benefit award.
9. Data are published at http://statistics.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd1/hb_ctb/hbctb_release_oct10.xls

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Council Tax Benefits: Scotland

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the effect on the revenue available to each Scottish local authority of the implementation of his decision to devolve direct control of council tax benefit in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [21132]

Steve Webb: The Government are working to develop the new arrangements including the detailed administrative implications for local authorities which have yet to be determined.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much has been paid in council tax benefit in each Scottish local authority area in each year from 1997. [21133]

Steve Webb: Tables of council tax benefit expenditure by local authority from 1996-97 to 2008-09 have been placed in the House Library.

2009-10 council tax benefit expenditure figures for Scottish local authorities are shown in the following table.

Council tax benefit Scottish local authorities

2009-10	*£ million*
Aberdeen City	11.5
Aberdeenshire	8.8
Angus	6.0
Argyll and Bute	6.1
Clackmannanshire	3.7
Dumfries and Galloway	9.3
Dundee City	13.8
East Ayrshire	10.3
East Dunbartonshire	5.2
East Lothian	5.7
East Renfrewshire	4.1
Edinburgh, City of	30.9
Eilean Siar	1.9
Falkirk	9.0
Fife	22.8
Glasgow City	74.6

Council tax benefit Scottish local authorities

2009-10	*£ million*
Highland	13.6
Inverclyde	7.4
Midlothian	5.4
Moray	4.2
North Ayrshire	12.1
North Lanarkshire	27.0
Orkney Islands	0.8
Perth and Kinross	7.0
Renfrewshire	14.1
Scottish Borders	6.0
Shetland Islands	0.8
South Ayrshire	9.0
South Lanarkshire	22.8
Stirling	4.9
West Dunbartonshire	10.4
West Lothian	10.5

Source:
Local authority subsidy returns

Council tax benefit expenditure shown by local authority can also be found at the following URL:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2010.xls

The tables contained in this publication contain expenditure data for all local authorities from 1996-97 to 2009-10.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he had with Scottish local authorities prior to his decision to devolve direct control of council tax benefit to local authorities. [21134]

Steve Webb: Local authorities throughout the United Kingdom were consulted extensively about the proposal to rename council tax benefit as council tax rebate. The Government believe it is possible to go further and give local authorities a greater say in how a rebate scheme should operate. Local authorities will be given the opportunity to contribute their views when we consult on the proposal.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16256]

Chris Grayling: Information about how many staff in the Department have been appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010, and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded is not held centrally. As a consequence this information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Disability Living Allowance

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome have had their initial application for disability living allowance turned down in the last three years for which figures are available. [18646]

Maria Miller: Entitlement to DLA is dependent on an assessment of how much help someone needs with personal care/supervision and/or mobility because of their disability and is not based on a particular diagnosis or condition. We are unable to say how many people diagnosed with myalgic encephalomyelitis and chronic fatigue syndrome have had their initial application for disability living allowance (DLA) turned down in the last three years. Although this level of detail is held on the person's records we estimate that there would be a disproportionate cost to the Department in having to extract this information.

Financial Inclusion

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been given financial support through *(a)* credit unions and *(b)* other community finance organisations that have been supported by funding from the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [20342]

Steve Webb: The Department for Work and Pensions Growth Fund invests in the capacity of credit unions and other community finance organisations to offer access to savings, banking, insurance, budgeting and affordable credit services.

Since 2006 credit unions have made over 262,056 loans to financially excluded people, with an additional 43,308 loans made through other community finance organisations.

Over 275,000 customers who took out a Growth Fund loan also opened a bank or savings account.

Housing Benefit

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1137W, when he plans to report the results of his Department's review of the way housing benefit for supported accommodation is assessed. [18114]

Steve Webb: As part of our review of the housing benefit rules for certain types of supported accommodation, we are currently working up options for change to provide a more transparent, consistent and fairer system of expenditure control.

We have already been helped by a number of local authorities who assisted in a survey that we ran last year. Research has also been under way to provide the necessary evidence base for considering change; the research report is due to be published later in the autumn. Our stakeholder working group has also helped in formulating broad options for change.

Although we do not have plans to report the results of this review, we will consult more widely on any proposed changes.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on provision of *(a)* homeless hostels, *(b)* women's refuges and *(c)* other homeless services of (i) his proposed changes to housing benefit and (ii) his proposed cap on benefit payments. [18124]

Steve Webb: The proposed changes affect those in the private rented sector whose housing benefit is based on the local housing allowance. Those who live in hostels and in supported accommodation within the social and voluntary sector do not routinely have their housing benefit based on the local housing allowance and are therefore unlikely to be affected by these changes.

We will work closely with other Government Departments, the devolved Administrations, local authorities and external organisations to monitor the impact of the changes and to inform policy development over time.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of social housing tenants in each local authority who are likely to be subject to housing benefit deductions as a result of having one or more bedrooms above their household need. [20993]

Steve Webb: The information is not available.

The detailed policy design of this change is still being developed. Impact assessments, including the number of households affected, will be published to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Public Expenditure

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely effect on his Department's expenditure on benefit payments of the change in the number of jobs in the public sector in the comprehensive spending review period. [19835]

Chris Grayling: The Department's benefit expenditure forecasts published following the June Budget are based on the economic assumptions made in the Office for Budget Responsibility's June Budget forecast, as set out in table C5 of the June Budget document. Those economic assumptions reflect the decisions on overall public spending made at the June Budget.

An update to those forecasts will be published following the Office for Budget Responsibility's publication of its autumn forecasts on 29 November.

Shared Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the level of availability of shared room accommodation in each broad market retail area; and if he will make a statement. [20992]

Steve Webb: Information on the number of dwellings available in shared accommodation in the private rented sector is not available. From next year, the local housing allowance rates will be set at the 30th percentile of rents in each broad rental market area, ensuring that 30 % of properties, for each property size, would be affordable under the local housing allowance arrangements.

Social Rented Housing

Mr Betts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the proposed rents for social housing of 80% of market level will attract housing benefit in full. [19805]

Steve Webb *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The amount of a social housing tenant's rent that is eligible for help is usually based on their contractual rent. Social housing tenants do not come under local housing allowance arrangements.

Social Security Benefits: Disability

John Stevenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many families in Carlisle constituency are in receipt of *(a)* incapacity benefit, *(b)* attendance allowance and *(c)* disability living allowance. [19349]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided in the following table:

Claimants of attendance allowance, disability living allowance, and incapacity benefit, severe disablement allowance, Carlisle parliamentary constituency, February 2010

	Number
Incapacity benefit/severe disablement allowance	3,560
Disability living allowance (in payment)	5,080
Attendance allowance (in payment)	2,870

Notes:
1. Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest 10. Some additional disclosure control has also been applied.
2. Caseload show the number of people in receipt of DLA, AA and exclude people with entitlement where the payment has been suspended, for example if they are in hospital.
3. A claimant can be in receipt of more than one of these benefits and will therefore be counted for each benefit they receive.
4. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment and support allowance (ESA) from October 2008.
5. Figures do not include ESA.
6. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.
7. A claimant can receive more than one of the above benefits and will therefore be counted for each of the benefits they receive.

Source:
DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Frank Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people convicted of benefit fraud had two or more previous such convictions in each year since 2005. [18681]

Chris Grayling: Information on the number of people convicted of benefit fraud with two or more previous such convictions in 2005-06 and 2006-07 is provided in the following table.

People convicted of benefit fraud with two or more previous such convictions in the UK

	Number
2005-06	4
2006-07	5

Data are incomplete from 2007-08 onwards due to the roll-out of Fraud Referral and Intervention Management System (FRAIMS). Options for reintroducing collation of these data are kept under review subject to cost-effectiveness.

Social Security Benefits: Mental Illness

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many appeals against mental health benefit assessments were upheld in *(a)* England and *(b)* Gloucestershire in the most recent 12-month period for which figures are available. [20763]

Chris Grayling: For appeals relating to the fit for work decision at the initial work capability assessment for employment and support allowance claims where the primary condition recorded at the start of the claim related to a mental and behavioural disorder, the numbers appealing and numbers where the appellant was successful are as follows:

	Total appeals heard	*Appellant successful*
England	22,390	9,490
Gloucestershire	250	120

Figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 and are based on appeals heard from August 2009 to July 2010, the latest data available.

State Retirement Pensions: British Nationals Abroad

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the average annual difference between the state pension paid to ex-UK residents now resident in other EU member states and the *(a)* basic and *(b)* means-tested pension. [16194]

Steve Webb: Please find the information provided in the following table:

£

	Weekly amount	*Difference*
Average amount of Category A state pension paid to UK state pension recipients now resident in other EU member states	65.00	—
Full rate of basic state pension, 2009-10	95.25	30.25
Full rate of guarantee credit (single persons rate), 2009-10	130.00	65.00

Notes:

1. The average amount given in the first row of the table is the sum of basic state pension and additional pension paid to UK state pension recipients now resident in other EU member states, based on their Category A entitlement.

2. The average amount figure is rounded to the nearest £1.00.

Source:

Average amount: DWP calculations: Administrative records, September 2009.

State Retirement Pensions: Uprating

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what information his Department holds for benchmarking purposes on mandatory increases in contributions to state pensions in other EU member states. [16865]

Steve Webb: The DWP does not hold information for benchmarking purposes on mandatory increases in contributions to state pensions in other EU member states.

EU member states have very different state pension systems which are financed in different ways. Analysis by the OECD in "Pensions at a Glance: 2007" suggests that "pension contribution rates have remained broadly stable since the mid-1990s", reflecting "governments' concerns over the effect on employment of high labour taxes". Projections made by the EU Commission in its "Ageing Report 2009" suggest that revenue from pension contributions should remain stable as a percentage of GDP between 2007 and 2060.

Winter Fuel Payments

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people aged *(a)* 60 to 64, *(b)* 65 to 69, *(c)* 70 to 79 and *(d)* 80 years or over were in receipt of winter fuel allowance in (i) England and (ii) Easington constituency in each year since 2005. [17753]

Steve Webb: The information is in the following tables:

Winter fuel payment recipients—Great Britain and abroad: Time Series by age

Area/age	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
England	10,810,140	10,592,900	10,345,380	10,028,780	9,864,190
Under 60	14,220	10,090	9,930	9,750	—
60 to 64	2,852,580	2,802,640	2,690,280	2,478,860	—
65 to 69	2,265,860	2,183,790	2,133,960	2,110,630	—
70 to 79	3,498,400	3,457,650	3,412,500	3,372,870	—
80 and over	2,179,080	2,138,730	2,098,700	2,056,680	—

Winter fuel payment recipients—Easington constituency: Time Series by age

Area/age	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
Easington parliamentary constituency	17,480	17,230	17,050	16,710	16,580
Under 60	30	20	30	20	—

Winter fuel payment recipients—Easington constituency: Time Series by age

Area/age	*2009-10*	*2008-09*	*2007-08*	*2006-07*	*2005-06*
60 to 64	4,550	4,500	4,330	4,120	—
65 to 69	3,670	3,570	3,640	3,650	—
70 to 79	6,210	6,190	6,170	6,140	—
80 and over	3,020	2,950	2,890	2,790	—

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and therefore totals may not sum.

2. Constituencies used are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2005. DWP are currently working to produce 2009-10 WFP figures for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010.

3. The 'under 60' category contains cases where an IS/JSA claimant receives a payment on behalf of their partner who is aged 60 or over.

4. The age breakdown for 2005-06 winter fuel payments shows a larger than expected number of recipients aged under 60 compared with subsequent years. The age breakdown has been withdrawn while the figures are investigated.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 100% data

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many higher rate taxpayers receive winter fuel payments; and what the cost to the public purse of such payments was in the latest period for which figures are available. [21011]

Steve Webb: The number of higher rate taxpayers in Great Britain receiving winter fuel payments is not available.

However, winter fuel payments are paid to those over woman's state pension age, which is increasing from 60 to 60.5 during 2010-11. The estimated number of higher-rate tax payers aged 60 and over in 2010-11 is 450,000 (rounded to nearest 50,000). This figure includes those paying tax at the additional rate (i.e. at a rate of 50%).

The estimated amount of winter fuel payments paid to higher rate (or additional rate) tax payers is £90 million in 2010-11 (rounded to nearest £10 million).

Notes:

1. Figures use HMRC data on the number of taxpayers by tax band for 2007-08, projected forwards using June 2010 Budget assumptions. It is assumed that all tax payers of appropriate age get winter fuel payment.

2. The winter fuel payment for 2010-11 is £250/£400 per household.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Overseas Trade

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent steps he has taken to discourage British companies from trading and investing in Burma. [20839]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government's position on this issue is well known. We do not encourage trade and investment in Burma and, in compliance with EU sanctions, we do not offer commercial services to any companies who may want to trade or invest there.

Burma: Politics and Government

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on forcible relocations of indigenous farmers in the Hukawng valley, northern Burma. [20906]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are aware of reports that people living in the Hukawng reserve, in Kachin state, northern Burma, have had their homes destroyed, land confiscated and been forcibly relocated as a result of the regime's plans to transform the area into a centre for bio-fuel production. Our embassy in Rangoon is part of an in-country group that is monitoring developments and providing assistance to local communities to help document and highlight the situation.

Burma: Railways

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the construction of a railway link across the Salween river to eastern Shan state in Burma. [20840]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government are aware of reports alleging that thousands of acres of farmland have been confiscated in this area and that farmers who complain to the regime have been threatened with imprisonment. Ethnic groups in Shan state are also reportedly concerned that the railway could be used by the regime to deploy military forces and equipment to the area. We are monitoring developments.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs (1) which embassies have had their budgets reduced as a result of the removal of the overseas price mechanism; and by how much each such embassy's budget for *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11 was reduced; [16723]

(2) whether spending reductions consequent on the removal of the overseas price mechanism have resulted in reductions in his Department's spending on counter-terrorism projects; [16724]

(3) whether the budget reductions required as a result of the removal of the overseas price mechanism resulted in the withdrawal, reduction or deferral of any of his Department's *(a)* human rights, *(b)* democracy promotion, *(c)* counter-proliferation, *(d)* counter-projects narcotics, *(e)* counter-radicalisation and *(f)* climate change projects; [17028]

(4) whether the spending reductions consequent on the removal of the overseas price mechanism resulted in the withdrawal or reduction of his Department's support to any of the overseas territories. [17029]

Alistair Burt: The overseas pricing movements (OPM) mechanism was abolished by the previous Government as part of the 2007 comprehensive spending review. OPM was originally put in place in order to ensure that the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's (FCO) overseas budget was maintained in real terms after foreign exchange rate and differential inflationary pressures overseas. The decision to remove OPM became effective in April 2008. As a result the FCO implemented a foreign currency forward purchase programme to help manage its foreign exchange needs.

Since April 2008, our posts overseas have faced significant exchange rate and inflationary pressures. In 2008-09 the exchange and inflation rate pressure on our posts' budgets was £59.2 million. In 2009-10 the exchange and inflation rate pressures on our posts' budgets was £80 million and is estimated to be over £100 million in 2010-11. As budgets in the FCO are devolved to our network of over 250 posts, details of the specific impact that the loss of OPM has had on any project or specific area of spend could be obtained only at disproportionate cost.

Additional exchange rate pressures have had an impact on our international organisations subscriptions, peacekeeping assessed contributions and other budget areas spent in foreign currency from the UK. The total net impact on the Department's budget of adverse currency movements is estimated to be £77 million in 2008-09, £109 million in 2009-10 and £141 million in 2010-11.

In order to manage the pressures on our overseas network from exchange rate movements since the ending of the OPM mechanism and retain a global footprint, the FCO has had to re-examine and reprioritise funds allocated to programmes so they focus on those areas where the FCO itself can make the biggest difference and which offer the best possible value for money.

As part of the 2010 spending round, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that a new Foreign Currency Mechanism would be introduced to enable the FCO to better manage exchange rate pressures and allow for better planning. This will allow the FCO to stabilise the value of our budget overseas so that our activity will no longer be dictated by the foreign exchange markets, as it has been since OPM was withdrawn.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials in his Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18771]

Alistair Burt: Under our Sickness Absence Management Policy and Procedures, staff, both in the UK and overseas, are required to enter details of any sickness absences they have on our online Human Resource system. Line managers are then required to verify that the absences have been correctly entered. This measure is in place to ensure we have an accurate record of sickness absence and are able to deal promptly with cases of excessive sick leave. Staff who fail to follow correct sickness absence procedures could face disciplinary action under the Foreign and Commonwealth Office Misconduct Procedures guidelines.

We are currently reviewing our Sickness Absence Management Policy and Procedures and will consider as a part of this review whether there are additional steps which may help reduce levels of sickness among both junior and more senior staff.

Response: (i) consecutively

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Fewer than five days	2,289	1,805	1,376	1,383	2,046	2,177	1,875
5 to 9 days	397	367	291	290	383	441	272
10 to 14 days	139	144	113	96	129	160	106
15 to 19 days	86	82	71	63	96	89	64
20 to 24 days	44	46	29	37	46	52	32
25 to 49 days	97	107	115	81	111	124	98
50 to 74 days	53	37	33	32	31	35	25
75 to 99 days	29	21	18	21	8	18	9
100 to 149 days	34	18	16	15	12	5	9
150 to 199 days	9	8	6	8	1	2	1
More than 200 days	5	11	16	12	5	4	4
More than three months	44	32	28	30	16	2	13
More than six months	10	7	9	11	3	17	5
One year on paid sick leave	0	5	9	3	3	2	0

Response: (ii) total in each year

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
Fewer than five days	1,386	1,150	874	872	1,313	1,357	1,365
5 to 9 days	509	392	312	349	480	508	357
10 to 14 days	204	153	123	113	93	90	93
15 to 19 days	119	78	74	64	152	217	56
20 to 24 days	63	42	29	43	55	47	33
25 to 49 days	114	124	83	92	107	109	93

Response: (ii) total in each year

	2004	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*
50 to 74 days	52	29	42	42	46	47	31
75 to 99 days	25	34	29	29	18	29	18
100 to 149 days	31	26	23	12	27	11	18
150 to 199 days	15	16	17	13	9	18	8
More than 200 days	17	18	23	17	9	10	6
More than three months	51	55	48	36	34	41	30
More than six months	18	15	12	15	10	9	9
One year on paid sick leave	0	8	11	4	3	3	0

Hajj Advisory Group

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what consultation his Department had with community leaders before taking the decision not to include a medical team within the British Hajj Delegation. [19875]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The decision to discontinue the medical element of the British Hajj Delegation was taken by Ministers following a Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) review in March 2010. The review did not include consultations with community leaders but, rather, took an objective view of the situation on the ground. The review noted significant improvements to the medical facilities provided for pilgrims by the Saudi authorities since the British Hajj Delegation first began 11 years ago. It also noted the declining demand for medical assistance for minor ailments from British Hajjis.

The decision brings our support for British Hajjis more into line with the support we provide for British nationals at other events. The FCO does not provide medical services at any other event involving large numbers of British nationals.

Iran: Nuclear Power

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the effect of the Stuxnet computer virus on Iran's nuclear programme. [19981]

Alistair Burt: I am aware of recent reports relating to the Stuxnet computer virus. It is for Iran to comment on the impact of such incidents. However, it is clear that Iran is continuing to undertake proliferation-sensitive activities including seeking to expand its nuclear programme, in direct defiance of six UN Security Council resolutions.

Iran: Sanctions

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his *(a)* US and *(b)* European counterparts on the effectiveness of sanctions against Iran. [19980]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary holds regular discussions with US and EU counterparts on the Iranian nuclear issue, including sanctions. My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary most recently discussed Iran with Secretary of State Clinton on 27 September, and with EU counterparts at the Foreign Affairs Council on 25 October, where an EU regulation implementing sanctions against Iran was adopted.

Israel: Illegal Settlers

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives his Department has set for its policy on Hezbollah. [20010]

Alistair Burt: We want to see Hezbollah reject violence and play a constructive, democratic and peaceful role in Lebanese politics, in line with the full implementation of UN Security Council resolutions, most notably UN Security Council resolution 1701, which calls upon Hezbollah to disarm.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the condition of Gilad Shalit; and what discussions he has had with his Israeli counterpart on the matter. [19984]

Alistair Burt: The UK has long called for Gilad Shalit's immediate and unconditional release. It is also vital that Hamas allows the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to visit Gilad immediately and ensure that he is in good health. His continued captivity without any ICRC access and with only very occasional, minimal contact with his family is utterly unacceptable.

We continue to call on Hamas to renounce violence and take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to free Gilad Shalit without delay.

Gareth Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent progress his Department has made in efforts to secure the release of Corporal Gilad Shalit. [20011]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary made clear in the House on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 740:

> "Obviously, we are not able directly to secure his release, but that matter is one of the deeply aggravating factors that mean that Gaza remains such an immense international problem. We have called repeatedly for the release of Gilad Shalit and will continue to do so, and the international community will continue to work towards that end. If Hamas and other forces in Gaza were remotely interested in a political settlement and in coming to terms with Israel and the rest of the international community, they would wish to do that".

The UK Permanent Representative to the UN reiterated this message on 18 October 2010.

Nuclear Disarmament

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the Prime Minister's oral statement of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 805-06, on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, in what forums he expects discussions of the UK's responsibilities for multilateral nuclear disarmament to take place. [20731]

Alistair Burt: The Government are committed to the long-term vision of a world without nuclear weapons and will press for multilateral progress as the primary means of achieving sustainable global nuclear disarmament.

The UK continues to take part in regular discussions on multilateral nuclear disarmament in the following international fora: the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty preparatory committees and five-yearly review conferences; the UN's Disarmament Commission and First Committee; the preparatory commission for the Comprehensive Test-Ban Treaty Organisation; and the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva. The nuclear weapon states will also discuss nuclear disarmament at a meeting of the P5 in Paris in 2011—following a similar conference hosted by the UK in 2009.

Nuclear Weapons: Arms Control

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what position the Government plan to take in the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations First (Disarmament) Committee on the draft resolution on *(a)* the Nuclear Weapons Convention (draft resolution L.50) and *(b)* d-alerting (draft resolution L42). [20668]

Alistair Burt: Resolution votes at the UN's First Committee started in New York on 26 October 2010. The UK voted against the draft resolution on a Nuclear Weapons Convention (draft resolution L.26), together with 47 other countries including the US and all EU partners.

On 27 October 2010, the UK voted against the draft resolution on de-alerting (L.42), along with the US and France. We gave a statement at the time of voting at First Committee, which explained that we do not accept that further de-alerting of nuclear weapons by the UK is necessary to prevent accidental use: our nuclear weapons are subject to the most rigorous command and control systems, and the UK has already significantly reduced the operational status of our nuclear deterrent.

Peace Keeping Operations

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to his Iranian and Syrian counterparts on *(a)* the implementation of UN Resolution 1701 and *(b)* weapons smuggling into Lebanon. [19982]

Alistair Burt: During my visit to Damascus in July, I made clear and firm representations to Foreign Minister Muallem in support of UN Security Council resolution 1701. We are strongly committed to the full implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1701: this is the best means of achieving stability in Lebanon. I also raised the issue of weapons smuggling in Lebanon and underlined concerns about reports of Syrian facilitation of arms to Hezbollah. My officials continue to raise these issues at the highest level during our regular dialogue with Syrian counterparts.

We remain concerned that Iran is undermining regional peace and stability, including through weapons transfers. We call on Iran to play a constructive role in the region, including through restoring international confidence in its nuclear programme. We continue to make our views clear through interventions at the UN on UN Security Council resolutions 1701 and 1559.

Sri Lanka: Human Rights

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Government of Sri Lanka on the human rights situation in the country. [20526]

Alistair Burt: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary and I discussed our concerns with the Sri Lankan Foreign Minister on 19 and 20 October 2010 and stressed the need to improve the human rights situation in Sri Lanka.

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what progress has been made towards the establishment of an independent and transparent investigation into allegations of war crimes in Sri Lanka. [20615]

Alistair Burt: I refer the hon. Member to my response of 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 821-22W, to my hon. Friend the Member for St Ives (Andrew George).

Tamils

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs whether his Department has received reports on the authenticity of photographs of Tamil detainees released by the Global Tamil Forum. [20616]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office has received no reports on the authenticity of the photographs. These disturbing images underline the importance of a credible investigation into allegations of violations of international law by both parties to the conflict.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what guidance his Department issues to local authorities on the provision of bus services. [19262]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 25 October 2010]*: The Department has issued the following guidance to local authorities considered relevant to the provision of bus services, which can be found on the internet at the addresses provided:

Guidance to support local authorities in preparing their third Local Transport Plans. The guidance gives brief advice to local authorities on the powers and other measures available to local authorities to enhance local bus services, and points authorities to other useful documents.

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/guidance/localtransportsplans/

Guidance on making best use of community transport for local authorities completing Local Transport Plans:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/ltp/guidance/localtransportsplans/policies/communitytransport/

Guidance for local authorities and bus operators on bus punctuality partnerships:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/buspunctuality/

Guidance on quality bus partnership schemes, quality contract schemes and voluntary bus partnership schemes:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localtransportbill/vpaguidance.pdf

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localtransportbill/qcsstatutoryguidance/

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/localtransportbill/

Guidance on the tendering of bus services, including good practice and specimen contracts:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/regional/buses/tendering/

Bus Services: Standards

Andrea Leadsom: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many times a traffic commissioner has taken steps as a result of complaints regarding bus companies not fulfilling their advertised timetables since 2005; which companies were the subject of such complaints; and what fine was imposed by the traffic commissioner in each case where a penalty was imposed. [19054]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 22 October 2010]:* Between April 2005 and March 2010, a total of 166 operators of local bus services have attended public inquiries at which traffic commissioners have considered taking action for not running local services as registered, under the provisions of section 26 of the Transport Act 1985. Of these there were 100 incidences where an operator had penalties imposed under section 155 of the Transport Act 2000 and 38 incidences where operators had other restrictions placed upon their operator's licence. Traffic commissioners can also issue warning letters to operators without holding a public inquiry if they consider it appropriate.

The traffic commissioners publish the results of all public inquiries on the DFT website available at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roads/tpm/trafficcommissioners/publicationscheme/publications

Crossrail

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate is of the opening date for the full Crossrail route. [19791]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* Under the revised programme for the construction of the central tunnels, we expect that phased introduction of Crossrail services will commence from 2018.

Cycling Schemes

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Bikeability cycle training scheme. [17101]

Norman Baker: Bikeability cycle training is based on the National Standard for cycling training. The National Standard was developed by cycling organisations, safety bodies (including the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents and Road Safety UK), and the Administrations of the United Kingdom. It represents years of combined experience in providing high-quality, safe cycle training. Formal cycle training with an on-road element, such as Bikeability, has been shown to improve the safety awareness of children.

Recent research conducted by MORI asked parents and children about their experiences of Bikeability. Children who have taken part in the scheme feel safer and more confident when riding on the road (86%) and their parents feel more confident in allowing them to do so (87%). Children who have participated also feel more confident about riding their bike more often (87%). Bikeability training is rated very highly by both parents (97% say that they are very/quite satisfied with the training) and children (95% describe it as fairly/very good). I intend to publish this research in full in the near future.

The Department is currently evaluating cycling measures undertaken in the designated cycling demonstration towns, including cycle training and other activities aimed at schools. This work will be published once complete.

The value the Government place on Bikeability is demonstrated by our decision to continue support for the scheme after 2010-11.

Departmental Computer Software

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications for the Apple iPhone his Department has commissioned each company to create; and at what cost to the public purse those applications were created. [19460]

Norman Baker: The only application for the Apple iPhone commissioned by the Department for Transport and agencies is one launched by the Highways Agency in February 2010. It provides traffic information and breaking news alerts, and was developed by the companies Rufus Leonard and AIM at a cost of £29,050.

Departmental Manpower

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the staffing levels of each agency sponsored by his Department in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [19852]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* We are committed to meeting the targets for efficiencies set out in the comprehensive spending review and are currently working up detailed plans to deliver these, which includes staffing levels.

Departmental Sick Leave

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many days his Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate he made of the cost to his Department of sickness absence in each such year. [18722]

Norman Baker: The central Department and its Executive agencies committed to a Cabinet Office methodology of calculating sickness absence in 2007. To recalculate earlier figures would incur disproportionate cost.

Our quarterly departmental returns to the Cabinet Office are summarised in the following table:

12-month period	*Total number of sick days*	*AWDL per full-time equivalent post*
January 2007 to December 2007	206,608.0	11.0
April 2007 to March 2008	204,384.0	10.8
July 2007 to June 2008	191,879.0	9.9
October 2007 to September 2008	180,057.0	9.3
January 2008 to December 2008	171,613.0	8.9
April 2008 to March 2009	159,168.0	8.3
July 2008 to June 2009	152,579.0	8.1
October 2008 to September 2009	153,933.0	8.1
January 2009 to December 2009	153,992.0	8.1
April 2009 to March 2010	155,799.0	8.2

An estimate of costs is available only at disproportionate cost as single periods of sickness exceeding six months are paid at a reduced rate.

The Department reports sickness absence figures to the Cabinet Office on a quarterly basis and updates our results on the external website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/staff/sickabsence

Departmental Training

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many external training courses were attended by staff of his Department in the last 12 months; and what the cost to the public purse was of each such course. [13305]

Norman Baker: The following table lists the number of external training courses attended by staff in the Department for Transport (DfT) between 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010, and the cost where information is available:

Agency	*Number of training courses*	*Total cost (£)*
Driver Vehicle Licensing Agency	194	114,557
Government Car and Despatch Agency	1	4,644.65
Vehicle Certification Agency	[1]—	216,0[illegible]
Maritime & Coastguard Agency	416	630,083
Driving Standards Agency	235	204,336

[1] Number of courses cannot be obtained without incurring disproportionate costs.

This information is not held centrally by the central Department for Transport, and it is not possible to obtain this for the Highways Agency or the Vehicle and Operator Services Agency without incurring disproportionate costs. Whilst we are able to provide the overall cost of training courses for the Vehicle Certification Agency (VCA), it is not possible to obtain information on the number of training courses without again incurring disproportionate costs. This is because the VCA relies on data supplied by its finance procurement system. Whilst this can identify expenditure on learning and development activities as a whole, it is not possible to differentiate between expenditure on courses and expenditure on other forms of learning and development activity. It is also not possible to accurately determine the number of courses delivered against a paid invoice. Their training budget is also used to meet the cost of ad-hoc training course expenses, professional registration, and exam fees, among other items.

Driving Offences: Fraud

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of driving offences which have not resulted in a prosecution due to the provision by the offender of fraudulent identity documents in each of the last five years; and how many such offences involved one or more deaths. [19293]

James Brokenshire: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested is not available.

Data on driving offences and road casualties held by the Home Office and Department for Transport do not include information on the identity documents held by offenders.

Driving Tests: Birmingham

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the average waiting time was between applying for and taking a driving test in *(a)* Wednesbury, *(b)* Wolverhampton and *(c)* Kingstanding in (i) each of the last five years and (ii) the most recent period for which information is available. [21004]

Mike Penning: The following table gives the annual average waiting times for car and motorcycle tests at Wednesbury, Wolverhampton and Birmingham (Kingstanding) driving test centres in the past five years.

		2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*Weeks 2010 to date*[1]
Kingstanding	Car	5.0	8.0	9.5	9.1	8.0	9.0
	Motorcycle	2.0	1.9	3.1	6.6	—	—
Wednesbury	Car	3.8	5.9	7.2	5.5	4.5	5.4
Wolverhampton: closed 30 March 2010	Car	2.4	3.7	7.1	8.9	8.3	—
	Motorcycle	6.3	4.8	4.8	6.3	2.5	—
Wolverhampton MPTC: opened 25 October 2009	Car	—	—	—	—	5.8	8.3
	Motorcycle Module 1	—	—	—	—	2.1	4.5
	Motorcycle Module 2	—	—	—	—	3.0	3.9

[1] 25 October 2010

Notes:

1. Wolverhampton DTC stayed open while another DTC was refurbished.
2. Waiting times measured at Wolverhampton until September 2009, when the Wolverhampton MPTC started taking bookings.

East Coast Railway Line

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much he plans to allocate to improvements to the east coast main line; over what period; and if he will make a statement. [20516]

Mrs Villiers: During Control Period 4, which runs from April 2009 to March 2014, Network Rail's delivery plan allocates spending of £582 million (in 2010-11 prices) for enhancements to the east coast main line.

Galileo Project

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his most recent estimate of the cost to the UK of the EU Galileo satellite project is; and what such estimates were made in each of the last three years. [18563]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The system's in orbit validation (IOV) phase was initially funded through contributions to the European Space Agency (ESA). The UK has provided €240.3 million to Galileo through its contributions to ESA. Funding to ESA is provided on a *juste retour* basis, meaning that contracts equivalent to a member state's contribution less administration costs should be awarded to companies from within the member state.

The subsequent work required to complete the Galileo system is funded from the core EU budget to which all member states contribute. The UK contributes to the EU budget as a whole, not to individual programmes within it. The level of UK contribution depends on a number of factors, and varies from year to year. As a rough indication, the UK's pre-abatement contribution to the 2010 budget is currently estimated at 14%. The UK's contribution to the EU budget from 2014 onwards will be decided during the forthcoming negotiations.

The EU budget allocation to complete the system was set at €3.405 billion in 2007. Four of the six work package contracts necessary to complete the system have been let and orders placed for items such as satellites, and the remaining contracts should be signed in the near future.

The European Commission has not yet set out its proposal for the exploitation phase covering the operation, maintenance, marketing, improvement and renewal of the system from 2014 onwards. The Commission is required to undertake a feasibility study of the advantages and disadvantages of the use of contracts with private sector entities as part of this process since that may save public funds. The Commission's proposal may be made with the programme's mid-term review which the Commission is legally required to undertake in 2010.

Great Western Main Line

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital allocations he plans to make in respect of the Great Western Main Line in each year of the next spending review period. [19797]

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he plans to allocate funds for the electrification of the Great Western Main Line. [19618]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answers 26 October 2010]:* Decisions on electrification are linked with rolling stock programmes and the Intercity Express Programme. We are currently considering revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme (IEP). An announcement on the electrification of the Great Western Main Line will be made in due course, taking account of decisions on the future of the IEP project.

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to announce his decision on his plans for the electrification of the Great Western Line between Swansea and London; and by what means he plans to make that announcement. [20670]

Mrs Villiers: We are currently considering revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme (IEP). An announcement on the electrification of the Great Western Main Line will be made to the House in due course in light of the Government's decision on the IEP programme.

Great Western Main Line: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital rail expenditure schemes his Department has planned for the Great Western Line during the comprehensive spending review period. [20578]

Mrs Villiers: We expect that the following capital rail expenditure schemes will take place on the Great Western Main Line during the spending review period:

Elements of the Crossrail surface works

Reading station redevelopment

Barry - Cardiff Queen Street corridor improvements

Cotswold line re-doubling

An announcement on the electrification of the Great Western Main Line will be made in due course in light of the Government's decision on the Intercity Express Programme.

High Level Output Strategy

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable he has set for announcements on the future procurement of rolling stock under the High Level Output Strategy. [19717]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* An announcement on the High Level Output Specification (HLOS) will be made in due course.

High Speed Trains: Finance

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what budget headings the planned £750 million allocation to High Speed 2 will be spent in the next spending review period. [19696]

Mr Philip Hammond: A breakdown of budget allocations for high speed rail in the next spending review period is not yet available. Funding over this period will include expenditure under the following headings:

delivery of a consultation on the Government's strategy for high speed rail and on a line of route from London to the west midlands;

subject to the outcome of that consultation, preparation, including an environmental impact assessment, and delivery of a hybrid Bill seeking powers for a London to west midlands line, including any further refinement of the line of route;

preparation of recommendations to Government in relation to lines to Leeds and Manchester; and

provision for assistance for the owners of properties affected by blight.

High Speed Trains: Staffordshire

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has made an estimate of the likely effects of High Speed 2 on the economy of *(a)* Staffordshire and *(b)* Tamworth constituency. [20587]

Mr Philip Hammond: I have made no such estimate.

Highways Agency: Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects each of the Highways Agency major schemes for which funding was confirmed in the comprehensive spending review to be completed. [19811]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my oral statement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, "Investment in Highways and Local Transport Schemes" which has been placed in the Library of the House. Specific completion dates will be confirmed by the Highways Agency's programme in due course.

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on maintenance standards on the strategic road network of reductions in funding for the Highways Agency. [19812]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The Highways Agency is responsible for the maintenance, repair and renewal of the Strategic Road Network (SRN) in England on behalf of the Secretary of State. The agency is undertaking a review of its routine and winter maintenance standards to ensure that it maintains the SRN in a safe and serviceable condition, while seeking to reduce costs and drive value for money from its supply chain.

The review is expected to be completed by April 2011.The revised standards will be introduced into new and existing maintenance contracts as appropriate. Maintaining the SRN in a safe condition will remain a priority for the agency.

Large Goods Vehicles

Ms Gisela Stuart: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the proportion of heavy goods vehicles using trunk roads that were left-hand drive in 2009; and if he will make a statement. [21230]

Mike Penning: The Department does not hold data on the proportion of left-hand drive vehicles using trunk roads.

Data are collected on the proportion of foreign registered vehicles on British roads. In 2009, 3.9% of all heavy goods vehicle traffic was estimated to be driven by a foreign registered vehicle.

M20: Noise

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the number of households located in the area between junctions 4 and 6 of the M20 which are adversely affected by noise from that motorway; and how many such households are estimated to fall into each decibel band. [20540]

Mike Penning: During the last five years, the Highways Agency (HA) has carried out an extensive installation of noise barriers on the section of the M20 between Junctions 4 to 5 as part of the HA list noise mitigation programme.

Since the barrier installations, the HA has not made any estimate of the number of households located in the area between junctions 4 to 5 of the M20 which are adversely affected by noise from the motorway. The M20 between junctions 5 and 6 was not part of the noise mitigation programme and no estimate has been made of the number of households adversely affected at this location.

M4: Bus Lanes

Sadiq Khan: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of his proposed *(a)* suspension of the M4 bus lane until and *(b)* removal of the M4 bus lane after the London 2012 Olympic Games. [16736]

Mike Penning: The cost of the suspension of the M4 bus lane is estimated at around £400,000. Our indicative business case shows that the economic value of potential journey time savings that could be realised by the removal of the M4 bus lane exceeds the cost of removing the bus lane under the Experimental Order. In advance of the conclusion of the Experimental Order period and further evaluation, it would not be appropriate to attempt to estimate costs relating to any scheme for permanent removal.

Maritime and Coastguard Agency: Training

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many applications the Maritime and Coastguard Agency received to its Local Authority Beach Supervisor Course in the last 12 months; and what proportion of such applicants was successful. [21320]

Mike Penning: In the last 12 months the Maritime and Coastguard Agency have received 11 applications from local authorities, and of these, six were successful.

Motorways

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which Managed and Controlled Motorway Schemes his Department plans to deliver in the next five years. [21003]

Mike Penning: I direct the hon. Member to the Secretary of State's announcement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79, on future transport investment. A full outline of forthcoming road schemes can be found in the Library of the House.

Motorways: Speed Limits

Mark Lancaster: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent representations he has received from motoring organisations in support of increasing the speed limit to 80 miles per hour on controlled stretches of motorway. [19118]

Mike Penning: There have been no recent representations received in support of increasing the speed limit to 80 miles per hour on controlled stretches of motorway.

Railway Heritage Committee

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether the functions currently undertaken by the Railway Heritage Committee will continue to be carried out after its abolition; and if he will make a statement. [19801]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: We have considered whether the Committee's power to attach statutory designations to rail-related items of heritage interest should be retained following the Committee's abolition.

We have noted that the rail industry has a good record in relation to protection of items with heritage interest and that no equivalent power has been enacted in relation to other industries or transport sectors. In the light of that, we do not plan to retain the current designation powers. We would expect to repeal them but this would be subject to parliamentary scrutiny.

Railways: Birmingham

Richard Burden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport pursuant to the answer of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 410-11W, on railway stations: Birmingham, whether there have been any changes to *(a)* the budget for the Access to All Scheme at Northfield Station since May 2010 or *(b)* the estimated costs of the scheme since it was first approved by Network Rail. [20813]

Norman Baker: The scope of the work for the Access for All scheme at Northfield Station has evolved to a design with two lifts, one serving each platform. The anticipated final cost for implementation of the programme remains at £2.531 million and this has not changed since May 2010.

Network Rail is currently investigating cost-efficiency measures to deliver this scheme and we hope this will achieve some cost reductions.

Railways: Comprehensive Spending Review

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many *(a)* new and *(b)* cascaded carriages he expects to be delivered to rail routes in the north-west over the period of the comprehensive spending review. [19716]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: Deployment of carriages to the north-west is linked to decisions on other inter-dependent rail schemes.

We are currently considering revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme. Announcements on the Thameslink programme and the High Level Output Specification rolling stock programme will be made in light of the Government's final decision on the Intercity Express Programme. Decisions on those schemes will then determine the availability of new and cascaded rolling stock for other parts of the network.

Railways: Construction

Dan Byles: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the level of carbon dioxide emissions likely to be generated as a result of construction activity relating to the proposed High Speed 2 rail project. [16277]

Mr Philip Hammond: A detailed business case for High Speed 2—the proposed line between London and the west midlands—was published by HS2 Ltd in March 2010. This estimates that the main bulk construction materials will produce emissions for HS2 Ltd's recommended route of 1.2 million tonnes of carbon dioxide ($MtCO_2$), within the range of +0.29 $MtCO_2$ to +2.12 $MtCO_2$.

The range reflects the preliminary stage of the design for the scheme, and the fact that a number of assumptions had been made in terms of volumes of concrete, steel and ballast required to build the scheme. These volumes of construction materials would be subject to variation as the design for the scheme evolves.

Railways: Disability

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the future pricing of *(a)* disabled persons' rail cards and *(b)* rail tickets purchased using disabled persons' rail cards. [20897]

Mrs Villiers: Any proposed changes to the purchase price or the terms and conditions for the disabled person's railcard are a matter for the participating train operators, acting together through their industry body, the Association of Train Operating Companies in accordance with the terms of the disabled person's railcard scheme.

Under the disabled person's railcard scheme, the purchase price of the railcard may not be increased beyond accumulated RPI.

Any change to the terms and conditions of the disabled person's railcard, including the discounts to which users of the railcard are entitled, would require the written approval of the Secretary of State. The Department for Transport is not aware of any such plans.

Railways: East of England

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what his estimate is of the percentage of rail fares for journeys commencing or terminating at stations within *(a)* the east of England, *(b)* Norfolk and *(c)* Great Yarmouth constituency that are regulated. [21091]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport does not hold information about rail journeys at the level of detail requested.

Across the overall network, over 60% of all rail journeys are made on tickets that are regulated and we expect that the same level would probably apply for journeys made in the east of England, Norfolk and the Great Yarmouth constituency.

Railways: Electricity Generation

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what the electricity requirements are for High Speed 2; and *(a)* from what sources and *(b)* by what means he expects that electricity to be generated. [19969]

Mr Philip Hammond: The Project Specification annex to the "HS2 Technical Appendix", published by HS2 Ltd in March 2010 alongside its main report, sets out an assumption of the provision of 25-0-25kV AC autotransformer fed overhead line equipment, with additional provisions for, for example, lighting along the line and portable maintenance equipment.

Issues of electricity generation and supply are outwith the Department for Transport's remit. HS2 Ltd's report and supporting documents are available at:

www.dft.gov.uk/highspeedrail

HS2 Ltd has also published an 'HS2 Traction Energy Modelling' report, available at:

www.hs2.org.uk/highspeed2-publications

which found that a 200m train from Euston to Birmingham with two stops would consume 4700 kWh energy (after regenerative braking benefit of 437 kWh), and that the total annual energy consumption on the line would be 150 million kWh based on 0.048 kWh/seat-km and 3.2 billion seat-km (running 50 x 200m trains per day each way).

Railways: Electrification

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital funding he plans to allocate to *(a)* electrification of the Manchester to Liverpool line, *(b)* electrification of the Manchester-Preston-Blackpool line and *(c)* the Northern Hub for each year of the spending review period. [19795]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* On 20 October, the Chancellor announced that electrification of the lines between Manchester, Liverpool, Preston and Blackpool would go ahead. We are working with Network Rail to determine the timetable for the completion of these schemes, and ways of delivering them as cost-effectively as possible, and will make an announcement in due course.

We will consider the Northern Hub proposal once Network Rail has completed further development work, and we are able to assess the costs, benefits and affordability of the scheme for the next railway control period commencing in 2014.

Railways: Fares

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the compound percentage change in regulated rail fares in each year from 2011 to 2015. [19793]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]*: The Chancellor announced that the regulated fares cap will stay at RPI+1% for January 2011, change to RPI+3% from January 2012 to January 2014 and then revert back to RPI+1% in 2015. This translates to a 10% real increase.

Railways: Finance

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much each train operating company has invested in the rail network in each year since 2002. [18369]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 20 October 2010]*: The Department for Transport does not hold figures for annual investment by train operating companies.

In addition to investment in works such as Project Evergreen being undertaken by Chiltern Railways, train operating companies invest significant sums to enhance stations and associated facilities.

Most investment in rail infrastructures is currently undertaken by Network Rail Infrastructure Ltd. Full details of their current investment plans can be found at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/aspx/6648.aspx

Details of Network Rail's actual investment expenditure are available in their published annual report and accounts at:

http://www.networkrail.co.uk/browseDirectory.aspx?dir=\Annual%20Report%20and%20Accounts &pageid=3221&root

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what preliminary results he has received from the rail value for money study undertaken by Sir Roy McNulty. [20717]

Mrs Villiers: On 14 June 2010, the Secretary of State for Transport announced that he asked for the independent review of value for money in the rail industry to report back early with its initial findings.

Initial findings are due to be published shortly.

Railways: Noise

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what estimate he has made of the vibration levels likely to be produced by High Speed 2 trains. [19975]

Mr Philip Hammond: HS2 Ltd included an initial assessment of vibration effects in its "Appraisal of Sustainability: A Report for HS2, Non Technical Summary," found at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/rail/pi/highspeedrail/hs2ltd/appraisalofsustainability/

Further information will be provided in the full appraisal, which will be published to inform the forthcoming public consultation. It is HS2 Ltd's expectation that there will not be perceptible vibration above tunnelled sections.

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport with reference to the assumptions in his Department's report on "Appraisal of sustainability: new technical summary on High Speed (HS2)", what estimate he has made of the number of dwellings likely to be affected by peak noise levels of *(a)* max 73Db(a) and *(b)* 66Db(a) as a HS2 train passes by. [20027]

Mr Philip Hammond: The numbers of dwellings affected by noise at different levels would vary significantly as a result of the specific horizontal and vertical route alignment selected. Ministers have not yet made a decision on the exact route that they will recommend for consultation, so these figures cannot currently be finalised. However, estimates of the numbers of properties that may be affected by noise will be included in the full Appraisal of Sustainability which will be published to inform the forthcoming consultation. Further information on noise and a summary of the number of dwellings considered to be impacted by the route recommended by HS2 Ltd in its March report are reproduced in the explanatory note on noise which is available on the HS2 Ltd website at:

www.hs2.org.uk

Railways: North West

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for funding rail line improvements between Darwen and Manchester. [20659]

Mrs Villiers: The Government have no current plans to fund rail line improvements between Darwen and Manchester. However, the local authorities are undertaking studies with Network Rail to investigate the feasibility of introducing an all-day half-hourly service between Blackburn, Darwen and Manchester. It is anticipated that local authorities would fund both capital costs and the additional subsidy requirement arising from operating a more frequent service.

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much of his Department's proposed expenditure on improvement of rail platforms he plans to allocate to *(a)* the north-west and *(b)* Wirral. [21282]

Mrs Villiers: The spending review confirmed approval for a package of works totalling around £100 million to allow increased rail capacity in the north-west. The package includes track and signalling modifications, as well as platform lengthening and station improvements.

Full details of how this spending is broken down are a matter for Network Rail, as it delivers the high-level outputs specified by Government.

Road Traffic: Opening of Parliament

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will estimate the cost to the public purse of congestion in Southwark, Waterloo and Vauxhall caused by traffic disruption on the day of the State Opening of Parliament. [18615]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is not able to produce the information requested from the data we currently hold.

Roads: Privatisation

Steve Baker: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the potential effects of privatising the motorway and trunk road networks on the *(a)* level of receipts from (i) vehicle tax discs and (ii) fuel tax, *(b)* maintenance and *(c)* policing of such networks; and if he will make a statement. [20681]

Mike Penning: We have no plans to privatise the road network. Therefore, we have carried out no analysis of the effects of privatisation.

Roads: Sandwell

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many road traffic accidents were recorded in Sandwell in each of the last five years. [21321]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reported personal injury road accidents in Sandwell authority, 2005-09

	Number of accidents
2005	1,028
2006	1,023
2007	995
2008	971
2009	893

Roads: West Midlands

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many fatal road accidents there have been in West Bromwich East constituency in each month of the last three years. [20764]

Mike Penning: The information requested is shown in the following table.

Reported fatal road accidents: West Bromwich East constituency[1]*, 2007-09*

			Accidents
Month	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
January	0	0	1
February	0	0	1
March	0	1	0
April	0	0	0
May	0	0	1
June	0	1	1
July	0	0	1
August	1	0	0
September	0	0	0
October	0	0	0
November	0	0	0
December	0	0	0
Total	1	2	5

[1] Based on 2010 constituency boundary

Rolling Stock

Tony Baldry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what discussions he has had with suppliers on *(a)* rolling stock and *(b)* locomotives for High Speed 2. [19971]

Mr Philip Hammond: None. However, a strong national and international design and manufacturing base exists.

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects of the outcomes of the spending review on his plans for the delivery of new rolling stock. [20355]

Mrs Villiers: The spending review announcement confirms the Government's joint commitment with the Mayor of London to delivering Crossrail in its entirety. The delivery of Crossrail will include the procurement of new rolling stock.

Deployment of other new rolling stock is linked to decisions on several inter-dependent rail schemes. We are currently considering revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme, which would provide new intercity rolling stock. Announcements on the Thameslink programme and the High Level Output Specification rolling stock programme, which would provide new and cascaded rolling stock, will be made in light of the Government's final decision on the Intercity Express Programme.

Rolling Stock: North West

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what timetable has been set for purchasing new rolling stock for the north-west. [20362]

Mrs Villiers: Deployment of carriages to the north -west is linked to decisions on other, inter-dependent rail schemes. We are currently considering revised proposals from Agility Trains for the Intercity Express Programme. Announcements on the Thameslink programme and the HLOS rolling stock programme will be made in light of the Government's final decision on the Intercity Express Programme. Decisions on those schemes will then determine the availability of new and cascaded rolling stock for the north-west.

Severn Crossing: Finance

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much debt is owed to Severn River Crossing plc for the construction of the second Severn crossing, expressed in *(a)* 2010 and *(b)* 1989 prices. [20876]

Mike Penning: In their 2009 accounts SRC detail the amounts falling due to creditors after more than one year as £338.8 million, valued at the end of December 2009. Specifically they are the index linked debenture stock due (£200.1 million) for repayment in 2013 and the index linked Government subordinated debt (£138.7 million) due for repayment at the end of the concession period.

In July 1989 prices, the £338.8 million liability (as at end December 2009) would be £179.5 million. In September 2010 prices, this liability would be £350.1 million.

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he expects all debts to Severn River Crossing plc to have been repaid. [20877]

Mike Penning: Severn River Crossing plc is expected to repay the subordinated debt owed to the Government at the end of the concession period. This is currently forecast for the first half of 2017.

Severn Crossing: Manpower

Jessica Morden: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* the Highways Agency are deployed full- or part-time on matters relating to the transfer of the Severn crossings into Government ownership. [20878]

Mike Penning: An official from the Highways Agency attends four half-day meetings a year with Severn River Crossing plc to discuss end of concession transfer and planning issues. No consideration is given otherwise to matters relating to transfer by either the Highways Agency or departmental staff. The current expectation is that the transfer will not happen until 2017.

Speed Limits

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the effect of the introduction of 20 miles per hour zones in *(a)* towns and *(b)* villages. [17199]

Mike Penning: Decisions about setting 20 miles per hour zones are for local authorities, who are best placed to assess all the factors in individual cases.

The independent Transport Research Laboratory (TRL) has published several pieces of research, including TRL Report 215: Review of traffic calming schemes in 20mph zones and TRL Report 363 Urban speed management methods.

Additionally in September 2009 the Department published a review of how 20mph speed limit zones are implemented in England. It is available on our website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/research/rsrr/theme4/20mphzoneresearch.pdf

In addition to the above, the Department has researched the effects of the introduction of widespread 20 mph limits in Portsmouth and published the findings on our website at:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/pgr/roadsafety/speedmanagement/20mphPortsmouth/pdf/20mphzoneresearch.pdf

Trains: Public Lavatories

Mr Andrew Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what obligations his Department places on train operating companies to provide lavatories on rail services of *(a)* up to 30 minutes, *(b)* between 30 minutes and one hour, *(c)* between one and two hours, *(d)* between two and three hours and *(e)* more than three hours in duration. [19348]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The provision of toilets on trains is not specified as part of rail franchises. The rolling stock used on by individual train companies is generally an operational matter for them to decide, along with the toilet facilities they contain.

However, a Department for Transport consultation has recently closed on proposals to reform rail franchising. An option under consideration is to include passenger satisfaction measures as one of the ways to assess the performance of train operating companies under their franchise. Passenger views on the provision of toilet facilities could be expected to affect overall perception on the quality of service provided by a train operator.

Transport: Finance

John Woodcock: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport which highways authorities major schemes remain under review; and when he expects to announce his decision on the future of each of those schemes. [19813]

Mr Philip Hammond *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* I refer the hon. Member to my announcement of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-79. Further information has been placed in the Library.

Transport: Greater London

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much funding he plans to allocate to transport services in London in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [17712]

Mrs Villiers: The information is as follows:

2010-11

The Secretary of State has determined the level of GLA transport grant for Transport for London for the year at £2,766,694,000.00. In addition the Department for Transport will pay Transport for London grant of £392,500,000.00 by way of support for its obligations in relation to the former Metronet PPPs, and £24,932,347.14 for the purposes of London Overground. Other smaller amounts of funding for specific projects have been allocated to Transport for London, and to London boroughs, during the year, for example in relation to potholes.

2011-12

The Secretary of State expects to determine the level of GLA transport grant for 2011-12 shortly before the start of that financial year. He set out his intentions regarding future funding for Transport for London at the recent Spending Review; details of Transport for London's new funding agreement from the Government are available on the Department's website in the letter dated 20 October from the Secretary of State to the Mayor of London.

The Department also allocates funding to other transport operators who provide or facilitate services in London, for example Network Rail, train operating companies or local bus operators.

Underground Railways: North East

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has to implement his proposal for funding of a Tees Valley light rail metro system; and if he will make a statement. [19498]

Norman Baker *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The Department for Transport has no plans to implement a Tees Valley light rail metro system. We are aware of a long-standing proposal from local authorities in the area for such a system, but no official funding bid has ever been received by the Department.

Some early elements of the Tees Valley Metro project were prioritised by the north-east in the previous Government's Regional Funding Allocations system. These schemes are not being considered for major scheme funding in the spending review period and we hope to advise promoters how best to proceed once we have made progress in developing a new funding framework for major schemes for the future. In the meantime, promoters may also seek alternative funding sources.

On 20 October the Department announced that the agreed funding for the Tees Valley Bus Network would be accelerated so that the scheme can be delivered to a quicker timescale.

DEFENCE

Aircraft Carriers

Mr Carswell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice he received on the cost-effectiveness of *(a)* cancelling and *(b)* proceeding with the aircraft carrier construction programme; and if he will publish each submission he received indicating that cancellation would be the more expensive option. [19197]

Peter Luff: The Prime Minister received advice on the aircraft carrier construction programme as part of the strategic defence and security review process. BAE Systems separately wrote to the Prime Minister setting out the company's assessment of costs. The Government's conclusions have been fully explained in the strategic defence and security review, which was published on 19 October.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what will be the cost of modification of the two new aircraft carriers to allow the use of the carrier-variant of the Joint Strike Fighter. [20261]

Peter Luff: As announced on 19 October 2010, we plan to deliver the carrier strike capability from around 2020 with the carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter and Queen Elizabeth class carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear. We are investigating the optimum means of achieving this outcome, working with industry and our international partners. No decisions have been taken as to the type of system, delivery dates or procurement route, or whether both carriers will be converted.

Armed Forces: Higher Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many members of the UK's armed forces he has estimated will take up places at universities in England in each of the next five years; at what cost to the Exchequer; and if he will make a statement. [19756]

Peter Luff: In addition to formal attendance at universities either as an undergraduate or postgraduate, we encourage the attainment of academic qualifications in a part-time capacity and have in place a variety of funding mechanisms ranging from sponsorship through to standard and enhanced learning credits. In addition many military courses attract accreditation and we work closely with academic institutions to facilitate the attainment of qualifications such as the MBA programme with the Open University.

The Government are considering the recommendations made by Lord Browne in his independent review into higher education funding and student finance and we have also published the findings of the strategic defence and security review. In the light of these separate pieces of work, the likely uptake of places and the cost of attendance at university for the next five years, in England or elsewhere, cannot be determined with accuracy.

Armed Forces: Training

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the average cost of training *(a)* a Royal Marine commando and *(b)* an Army infantry soldier in the latest period for which figures are available. [21172]

Nick Harvey: The training cost for a Royal Marine from recruitment to graduation from the Commando Training Centre Royal Marines (CTCRM) is in the region of £54,000. Other than local familiarisation training, a graduate from CTCRM is fully deployable.

The training cost for an infantry soldier from recruitment to graduation from the Infantry Training Centre is in the region of £31,000. However, a soldier is not deployable at that stage and will undertake further training to become operationally effective within their unit. These further costs are not collected centrally and will include an element of local training where the cost is not easily identifiable, for example one-to-one instruction by a non-commissioned officer improving tactical knowledge of a unit's operational function.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which *(a)* service and *(b)* civilian allowances will be affected by his proposed reductions in expenditure. [19650]

Peter Luff: The final shape of the package will depend on further work, which will be subject to full consultation with relevant parties, including the trades unions, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity and health and safety.

Defence: Exports

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to increase defence exports. [19638]

Mr Gerald Howarth: This Government have made defence exports a priority. UKTI Defence and Security Organisation (UKTI DSO), part of the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills but working in close harmony with the MOD, is responsible for promoting British defence industry overseas. As the hon. Member knows only too well, defence exports make an important contribution to sustaining our defence industry. They uphold tens of thousands of highly skilled jobs and maintain prosperity for the individuals in the industry and for taxpayers as well. In addition to this, defence exports tie into a broader diplomacy initiative by enhancing relationships with key strategic partners.

This Government intend to increase defence exports through an active and innovative programme for defence diplomacy. We are working closely with industry to gain a clear understanding of the marketplace and to grasp the genuine potential to achieve exports. We are now considering export issues early in our acquisition process and aim to identify how early adjustments can be made to our own procurement programme to improve export prospects. We will utilise modular design opportunities to provide enhanced flexibility to both the company and customer by considering differing capability requirements.

We continue to support industry through responsible exports consistent with maintaining the effectiveness of the UK's strategic export controls. The first duty of the Government is to safeguard our national security and support for our troops. Effective strategic export controls are essential in fulfilling that commitment, and as such, we will retain an appropriate export licensing process.

Departmental Research

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department's research and development budget is to be frozen in cash terms in 2011-12 at 2010-11 rates. [20711]

Peter Luff: The Department's research and development expenditure will not be frozen in cash terms in 2011-12 at 2010-11 rates.

Marchwood Military Port

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) whether his Department has had contact with Associated British Ports on the future of the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre in the last 12 months; and if he will place in the Library a copy of any documents relating to any potential purchasers of the freehold of the site of that centre; [20284]

(2) whether it is intended to continue to use the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre for its present military purposes after any sale of the freehold by his Department; [20285]

(3) what assessment has been made of the practicability of transferring to other locations the present military functions of the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre; [20286]

(4) whether the 17th Port and Maritime Regiment will continue to *(a)* be based or *(b)* have the use of facilities at the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre; and if he will make a statement; [20287]

(5) if he will take account of public opinion in the local community about the intended use of the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre in considering proposals from potential future purchasers. [20288]

Peter Luff: Marchwood's continued suitability as the Ministry of Defence (MOD)'s Sea Mounting Centre has been tested by regular reviews, most recently in the work done to inform the strategic defence and security review and spending review announcements on 19 and 20 October. It remains our view that no other UK location offers the benefits available at Marchwood nor could deliver the Defence Sea Mounting Centre requirement as cost-effectively. This will continue to be tested throughout the sale process.

The current assumption, which will be tested to deliver value for money, is that Marchwood would continue to deliver the Sea Mounting Centre services required by the MOD under private ownership. 17 Port and Maritime Regiment's continued requirement to use the accommodation and training facilities will be taken into account as planning for the sale of Marchwood develops. We will also consult with the relevant authorities and stakeholders as necessary.

While an exploratory letter was received from Associated British Ports on the long-term operation of the Sea Mounting Centre in February 2010, it would not be appropriate to publish commercially confidential and sensitive information.

RAF Kinloss: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his decision on the future of the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at RAF Kinloss. [20213]

Nick Harvey: Work is now under way to consider the implications of decisions announced in the strategic defence and security review for UK military bases, including the future of the Aeronautical Rescue Co-ordination Centre at RAF Kinloss.

Rescue Services: Private Finance Initiative

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his decision on the future of the search and rescue private finance initiative contract suspended in June 2010. [21169]

Peter Luff: On 17 June 2010 the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced a review of the approval of the search and rescue helicopter project in the context of the wider pressures on public spending. As soon as this review is complete an announcement on the way forward will be made.

Type 26 Frigates

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of procuring a Type 26 frigate in the latest period for which figures are available; [21170]

(2) what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of the Type 26 frigate. [21273]

Peter Luff: I refer the right hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Glasgow South West (Mr Davidson) on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 377W.

UAVs: Afghanistan

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what savings he expects to accrue to his Department as a result of withdrawing the Sentinel from service after completion of its operations in Afghanistan. [19564]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the strategic defence and security review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trades unions and the devolved Administrations, as well as the results of mandatory assessments on the impact that the measures will have on sustainability, equality and diversity, and health and safety. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Climate Change: Finance

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding his Department plans to allocate to international climate finance programmes in each year from 2010-11 to 2014-15. [19827]

Mr O'Brien: The UK has committed to providing £1.5 billion in fast start finance over the period 2010-12, to help the developing world carry out the urgent work needed to adapt to climate change, adopt clean technology and reduce emissions from deforestation. Of this, a total of £511 million has so far been approved for specific multilateral programmes (subject to demonstration of value for money and results).

The spending review provides a total of £2.9 billion of UK international climate finance (ICF) over the spending review period. Of this total, the Department for International Development (DFID) will be responsible for approximately £1.8 billion. Further allocations will be informed by the ongoing bilateral and multilateral aid reviews, which are assessing how we can maximise the impact of UK aid and achieve value for money.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20470]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no record of any expenditure for services from the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months.

Members: Correspondence

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to reply to the letter of 1 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey on employment of UK contractors for reconstruction work in Pakistan. [20388]

Mr Duncan: A response was sent to the letter from the hon. Member for Sittingbourne and Sheppey about the employment of UK contractors for reconstruction work in Pakistan on 30 September 2010. A copy of that letter was emailed to the hon. Member's office on 26 October 2010.

Sri Lanka: Internally Displaced Persons

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what recent discussions he has had with his counterpart in the Government of Sri Lanka on the return to their homes of internally displaced people in that country. [20524]

Mr Duncan: Ministers have not had any discussions with the Sri Lankan Government regarding the return of internally displaced people to their homes. The British high commissioner in Colombo discusses this issue regularly with the Government of Sri Lanka. We encourage the authorities to allow those people who remain in camps for internally displaced people to return to their home areas as soon as possible.

Sri Lanka: Overseas Aid

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what his Department's policy is on the provision of aid to Sri Lanka; and if he will make a statement. [20525]

Mr Duncan: The Department for International Development (DFID) has no direct bilateral development programme with Sri Lanka. Over the last two years however, we have committed £13.5 million of humanitarian funding, all through the UN, Red Cross and NGOs. No funding has gone directly to the Government of Sri Lanka.

Uganda

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what steps his Department has taken to implement the recommendations of the 2002 United Nations Human Development report on Uganda; and if he will make a statement. [20034]

Mr O'Brien: Before the 2006 Ugandan presidential elections the UK Government provided technical and financial support to the Uganda Electoral Commission through a multi-donor fund managed by the Danish International Development Agency.

For the presidential elections scheduled for February 2011, the UK Government are participating in a "Deepening Democracy" programme with other development partners including Denmark, Norway, Ireland, the Netherlands and Sweden. Achievements of this joint donor programme so far include enhanced scrutiny of the Executive by Parliament, more transparent and open electoral processes, organisational strengthening of political parties, inter-party dialogue, large-scale engagement with the electoral processes by civil society, promotion of conflict mitigation and resolution strategies and enhancing media freedom.

Yemen

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what programmes his Department has to seek to prevent Yemen from becoming a failed state. [20688]

Mr Duncan: As part of the UK Government's co-ordinated approach to Yemen, the Department for International Development's (DFID's) programme supports the Government of Yemen to address causes of instability. Increasing stability helps to prevent state failure. DFID's programmes provide direct support to the delivery of services for the poorest communities in Yemen: better education, improved access to water, health care, jobs, and justice and policing. DFID also provides humanitarian relief to those displaced by conflict.

DFID, with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, takes a leading role in the Friends of Yemen process, which co-ordinates international support for Yemen. Through this process, we are driving efforts to develop new ways to support Yemeni development priorities that directly tackle instability. The process has secured agreement from the Government of Yemen to deliver a range of reforms that will address immediate causes of instability, including for example, implementing an IMF programme that will help to stabilise the economy, and pursuing the National Dialogue to promote a political resolution of key grievances.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Newcastle upon Tyne

Sir Alan Beith: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Central Office of Information posts he expects to be located in Newcastle-upon-Tyne at the end of 2011. [21070]

Mr Maude: I have asked the chief executive for COI to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 1 November 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question 21070 regarding the number of posts based in our Newcastle-upon-Tyne Office.

The number of posts following the recent redundancy scheme will be 9 in November 2010, one request for voluntary redundancy was accepted mitigating the need for any compulsory redundancies. It is not possible to forecast the number of posts at the end of 2011, however it is not expected to change at this time.

NDPBs: Legal Aid

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether he has received representations on the issue of payments from the public purse of fees for legal advice sought by chief executives of non-departmental public bodies which are to close. [20032]

Mr Maude: No such representations have been received.

Voluntary Organisations: Equality

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department has taken to assist voluntary sector organisations contracted to deliver public services to fulfil equality duties in respect of their staff. [19877]

Mr Hurd: In December 2009 the Cabinet Office published the refreshed Compact. The Compact is a long-standing agreement that sets out shared commitments and guidelines for partnership working between government and the voluntary, community and social enterprise (VCSE) sector.

Included in the Compact is a section on advancing equality, which commits VCSE organisations to take practical action to eliminate discrimination and advance equality. It also commits the VCSE sector to putting strategies in place to promote equality.

The Compact is currently being renewed.

Voluntary Organisations: Innovation

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps his Department is taking to encourage innovation in the voluntary sector. [19878]

Mr Hurd: We intend that commissioning of public services should be outcome based, leaving much more scope for innovative providers from the social enterprise, voluntary, charitable and small business sectors to bid.

Voluntary Organisations: Public Expenditure

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of reductions in public spending expenditure on levels of demand for services provided by the voluntary sector. [19874]

Mr Hurd: The Government recognise this is a particularly challenging time for the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector and are working closely with partners in the sector and across Government to understand and mitigate the impact of public spending reductions on the sector. It is currently too early to evaluate the impact of these reductions on demand for voluntary sector services; however the Cabinet Office is working with the Third Sector Research Centre to examine the exposure of the sector to public spending reductions.

The Government remain committed to ensuring the sector can play a key role in building a stronger civil society and are working to open up a range of opportunities for the sector. This includes a £100 million fund to support the sector in the transition to a tighter funding environment and delivering public services; work to open up new sources of funding through the Big Society Bank; and training of community organisers to support and galvanise change where most needed in local communities. Throughout this the Government are dedicated to limiting the impact of spending reductions on the sector and are working with local partners and the sector to share best practice in reducing spending.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Finance

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department has taken to reduce administrative costs on farmers since her appointment. [20078]

Mr Paice: I announced a Farming Regulation Review in June, which aims to reduce red tape on farmers and the associated administrative costs. To carry this forward, Richard Macdonald is chairing the Task Force on Farming Regulation to identify ways of reducing regulatory burdens on business and to advise on how best to achieve a risk-based system of regulation. The task force's full list of members, terms of reference and details of how the wider farming and food sector can engage with its work can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/2010/07/09/farm-review/

The task force is consulting widely and meeting with farming organisations and others to obtain their views on what should be done. The task force will report to Government in April 2011.

Dogs

Stephen Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what advice her Department has issued to police forces and other enforcement bodies on enforcement of legislation designed to reduce the number of dog attacks. [20214]

Mr Paice: DEFRA issued new guidance on the enforcement of the legislation in place to control dangerous dogs last year. This was in order to assist police forces and local authorities in dealing with incidents brought to their attention involving dangerous dogs. The guidance can be found on the DEFRA website at:

http://www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-pets/pets/dangerous

Fisheries

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much her Department spent on *(a)* monitoring, *(b)* protecting and *(c)* surveying marine fisheries in each of the last five years. [18820]

Richard Benyon: The information requested is set out in the following table.

£

	2005-06	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
(a) Monitoring	4,389,577.00	4,424,289.00	4,568,967.00	4,613,325.00	5,109,895.00
(b) Protecting	3,819,438.00	3,982,054.00	4,573,144.00	4,265,195.00	4,689,265.00
(c) Surveying[1]	9,255,874.00	9,021,555.00	8,942,042.00	9,313,068.00	9,357,776.00
Total	17,464,889.00	17,427,898.00	18,084,153.00	18,191,588.00	19,156,936.00

[1] Assumed to mean surveillance.

Flood Control

Mr Gale: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to co-ordinate responses to a national emergency; and which of these steps derive from recommendations of the Pitt Report. [20426]

Richard Benyon: As the designated lead Department responsible for the overall management of the central Government response to major emergencies in nine areas, DEFRA has ensured plans are in place to co-ordinate that response.

In the case of flooding, DEFRA'S work programme following the Pitt report included many actions designed to improve the multi-agency response to flooding emergencies—at all levels from local to national. A progress report on the full programme was published in December 2009 and is available on DEFRA's website. Looking forward, a National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy is currently being prepared and will provide an overview of all flood risk management arrangements.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what methodology she plans to use to determine the future of her Department's flood defence schemes. [21023]

Richard Benyon: During the spending review period we plan to reform the way in which funding is prioritised and allocated to projects, giving communities a bigger say in deciding what action is taken and when. We will consult on the approach as part of the forthcoming National Flood and Coastal Erosion Risk Management Strategy.

Flood Control: Finance

Jonathan Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the proposed Comprehensive Spending Review efficiency savings from her Department's capital expenditure on its programme for improving flood defences; and if she will make a statement. [20440]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency is committed to deliver real term efficiency savings of at least 15% in procurement over the spending review period. In real terms, 15% efficiency savings in flood and coastal risk management procurement is equivalent to delivering an average of 2% more in terms of outcomes, each and every year, between now and 2015.

The Environment Agency is developing a new procurement strategy which will set out how these savings will be achieved. Its main contractual frameworks are due for renewal, and these present an opportunity to increasingly move towards a delivery model that commissions segments of capital and asset maintenance work to clearly defined service levels and outcomes.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Association of British Insurers on the likely effects of reductions in her Department's flood defence budget on insurance premiums *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in areas of flood risk. [21021]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA had discussions with key representatives from the insurance industry, the National Flood Forum, the Environment Agency and local government at the Flood Insurance Summit in September. We agreed to continue working in partnership to ensure insurance remains widely available beyond 2013, when the current Statement of Principles agreement expires. DEFRA is also working to ensure that individuals benefit from improved insurance terms if they take responsibility for reducing their own flood risk.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of *(a)* homes and *(b)* businesses likely to be affected by the reduction in her flood defence budget. [21022]

Richard Benyon: The spending review settlement will protect front line forecasting and warning services and incident response, and will prioritise the maintenance of existing defences. We expect to be able to deliver better protection to around 145,000 households by March 2015, and will support growth in activity by lead local flood authorities.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely effect of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review on her Department's expenditure on flood defence in each year to 2015. [21024]

Richard Benyon: Flood risk management is a priority area for DEFRA, as is protecting front line services. We will be spending over £2.1 billion on flood and coastal erosion management over the spending review period. By March 2015, better levels of protection are expected for a minimum of 145,000 households in England. The precise annual breakdown has not yet been determined.

Mr Reed: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many flood defence schemes in each *(a)* constituency and *(b)* local authority area will be affected by her Department's proposed spending reductions; and what discussions she has had with local authorities on that matter. [21025]

Richard Benyon: By March 2015, better levels of protection are expected for a minimum of 145,000 households in England. However, it is too early to say what this means for individual schemes and local authorities.

Higher Level Stewardship Scheme

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what discussions she has had with Natural England on the budget for the higher level stewardship scheme in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12; and if she will make a statement; [19777]

(2) what discussions she has had with Natural England on in-year revision of the budget for the higher level stewardship programme. [19778]

Mr Paice: DEFRA holds regular discussions with Natural England and other arm's length bodies, including on budgetary matters. We are working with Natural England to finalise the detailed budgets for Higher Level Stewardship (HLS) for the remainder of the lifetime of the Rural Development Programme for England, and intend to confirm this shortly. Due to the level of applications for new HLS agreements already approved so far this year, Natural England has now temporarily suspended further approvals while the effects of the spending review outcome are assessed. This is necessary because new commitments made this year will impact on the budgets for subsequent years.

Land

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether non-statutory obligations on *(a)* management regimes, *(b)* access and *(c)* biodiversity in respect of land owned or managed by central Government departments, agencies and non-departmental public bodies will be transferred to new owners or managers of such sites in circumstances in which responsibility for such land is transferred. [20864]

Richard Benyon: The transfer of non-statutory obligations would depend on the specific obligation relevant to each area and would need to be considered on a case by case basis.

Rural Areas: Impact Assessments

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs if she will publish her Department's rural impact assessment of the 2010 Spending Review. [20450]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA has not carried out a formal assessment of the impact of the spending review on rural matters. It is the responsibility of each Government Department to ensure that the needs and interests of rural people, businesses and communities are addressed fairly in its implementation of the spending review.

DEFRA has supported Departments by providing guidance to assist them in carrying out their own analysis of whether rural and urban communities will be affected in different ways by spending decisions. DEFRA has also provided Her Majesty's Treasury with advice to help it identify potential adverse rural impacts of spending decisions. DEFRA officials will assist Departments in understanding the likely rural impacts as they work on implementing the spending review.

EDUCATION

Academies

Vernon Coaker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many Academy Orders he has agreed in relation to academies planning to open in September 2010. [12552]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* On the 26 May 2010, the Secretary of State invited schools to register their interest in becoming an academy. Following registration schools applied to convert to an academy and once applications were approved they were published on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/academies

A list of all Academy Orders that have been approved is also available on the website.

Arts: Curriculum

Stephen McPartland: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent assessment he has made of the content of the creative curriculum in primary schools; and if he will make a statement. [15964]

Mr Gibb: A January 2010 Ofsted report into 'Learning: creative approaches that raise standards' was generally positive in its findings across the schools visited.

We are reviewing the National Curriculum, for both primary and secondary schools, to restore it to its original purpose - a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. A slimmed down National Curriculum will allow schools more freedom and time to build on the core entitlement to provide a rich educational experience for all their pupils and to continue to use their professional judgement to organise teaching as they see fit.

The Government want every child to experience a solid cultural education including learning an instrument and to sing. On 24 September the Secretary of State asked Darren Henley of Classic FM to hold a review of music education and, as part of his recommendations due before the end of the year, to indicate how the delivery of music education can show the way for cultural education.

Building Schools for the Future Programme

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education pursuant to his answer to question 16 in oral evidence to the Select Committee on Education on 30 July 2010, HC 395-i, which *(a)* local authorities and *(b)* hon. Members have sent him a letter to thank him for ending Building Schools for the Future. [14972]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education is able to provide information on the number of items of correspondence received on a specific subject but is unable to provide information on specific correspondence content.

However a significant proportion of correspondence received supports the Government's decision to end the Building Schools for the Future programme.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria were used to select for cancellation the new school building projects under the Building Schools for the Future programme in Bolton. [9751]

Mr Gibb: The Department has announced that Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects that have reached Financial Close will continue, together with repeat projects which have Outline Business Case approval prior to 1 January 2010. All projects that have not reached Close of Dialogue will stop with immediate effect.

On 6 August the Department announced that 33 sample school projects will proceed and the 44 academies at the most advanced stage in their capital planning with Partnerships for Schools will also receive capital now. Decisions on any capital allocations for a further 75 will be decided in the current period.

Bolton has submitted its Outline Business Case to Partnerships for Schools, but this has not yet been approved. This will affect the plans for Bolton BSF projects as follows:

Bolton St Catherine's Academy: Unaffected—project continuing

Essa Academy: Unaffected—project continuing

Kearsley Academy: Decision on any capital allocation to be taken in the next few months

Bolton Muslim Girls School: Stopped

Ladybridge High School: Stopped

Little Lever Specialist Language College: Stopped

Rumworth Special School: Stopped

Sharples School: Stopped

Smithills: Stopped

Westhoughton High: Stopped.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will publish the business case and costings presented to his Department by the New Schools Network. [12028]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 6 September 2010]:* A copy of the business case presented to the Department by the New Schools Network (NSN) has been placed in the House Libraries.

Certain redactions have been made to the business case in line with exemptions under sections 43 and 36 of the Freedom of Information Act.

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what the 62 applications for free school projects were that his Department had received by 27 July 2010; [14946]

(2) if he will publish each written agreement between his Department and the New Schools Network; [14947]

(3) pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 4WS, on pupil place planning, on what date his Department received each of the 16 applications for free school status. [14948]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 September 2010]:* We will make available information about successful proposals once we have made the decision on whether to progress the proposal to the next stage of the development process. Further details about the first 16 approved applications will be published shortly on the Department's website at:

www.education.gov.uk/freeschools

The dates each of these 16 proposals was received are in the table.

The Department is currently working out the details of its written agreement with the New Schools Network.

Date proposal received	*Proposal*
18 June 2010	The West London Free School
22 June 2010	Stour Valley Community School
9 July 2010	Wormholt North Hammersmith Free School (ARK)
16 July 2010	Mill Hill Jewish Primary School
21 July 2010	Discovery New School

Date proposal received	*Proposal*
26 July 2010	Haringey Jewish Primary School
26 July 2010	I-Foundation
27 July 2010	St Luke's School Ltd
10 August 2010	King's Science Academy
10 August 2010	Nishkam Education Trust
12 August 2010	The Childcare Company
27 July 2010	Bedford and Kempston Free School
26 August 2010	Rivendale Free School
27August 2010	North Westminster Free School (ARK)
28 June 2010	The Free School Norwich
30 June 2010	Priors Marston and Priors Hardwick School Ltd

GCSE: Disadvantaged

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils eligible for free school meals attained *(a)* five GCSEs at A* to C grades and *(b)* five GCSEs including English and mathematics at A* to C grades in the latest period for which figures are available. [20639]

Mr Gibb: In 2009 there were 74,419 pupils[1] eligible for free school meals at the end of key stage 4. 48.9% (36,368) of these pupils achieved five GCSEs at A* to C grades and 26.6% (19,778) achieved five GCSEs including English and mathematics at A* to C.

The provisional figures for 2010 are due to be published in the statistical first release 'GCSE Attainment by Pupil Characteristics, in England 2009/10 (Provisional)' in December 2010.

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[1] These figures relate to GCSEs and equivalent examinations. They cover all pupils in maintained schools in England, including CTCs and academies at the end of key stage 4. The figures are based on final data.

History: GCSE and CGE A-level

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how many and what proportion of pupils of each ethnicity eligible for free school meals achieved a grade C or above in *(a)* history GCSE and *(b)* history A-level in the most recent 12 months for which figures are available; [15167]

(2) how many pupils of each ethnicity were entered for *(a)* a history GCSE and *(b)* a history A-level in the last 12 months for which figures are available; and how many were eligible for free school meals. [15170]

Mr Gibb: The information requested is given in the following tables:

Number and percentage of pupils of each ethnicity eligible for free school meals who achieved a grade C or above in History GCSE or History A-level in 2009

	GCSE				*A Level*			
	FSM		*Non-FSM*		*FSM*		*Non-FSM*	
Ethnic grouping	*Number*	*Percent*	*Number*	*Percent*	*Number*	*Percent*	*Number*	*Percent*
African	509	11.4	1,638	19.3	40	6.0	174	7.7
Any other Asian background	139	14.0	932	18.1	12	4.4	91	5.6
Any other black background	47	6.5	308	15.7	5	7.1	37	8.4
Any other ethnic group	231	11.5	755	18.4	18	5.0	120	9.9
Any other mixed background	101	9.5	1,097	23.0	9	6.5	179	12.6
Any other white background	253	10.6	2,965	20.6	32	9.1	621	14.6
Bangladeshi	286	10.3	556	17.2	25	4.8	58	7.2
British	3,078	6.4	90,944	22.0	282	7.8	15,168	13.6
Caribbean	116	6.7	782	12.5	9	4.7	95	7.9
Chinese	47	22.5	485	23.5	5	6.7	76	7.7
Gypsy/Roma	0	0.0	16	5.4	0	0.0	[1]—	[1]—
Indian	189	13.9	2,927	24.4	16	4.6	396	6.7
Information not obtained	41	9.0	616	22.7	8	10.5	130	12.2
Irish	29	9.9	544	32.9	5	15.2	148	21.2
Pakistani	572	11.4	1,866	16.9	41	4.6	149	5.4
Refused	48	9.0	879	22.8	9	11.7	172	13.3
Travellers of Irish heritage	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	0.0	0	0.0
White and Asian	53	10.9	804	29.1	6	8.5	121	12.7
White and Black African	33	10.1	250	19.8	3	8.8	37	12.9
White and Black Caribbean	104	7.2	770	16.0	12	10.5	78	9.1

[1] *Suppressed due to small numbers*
Source:
National Pupil Database (NPD)

Number of pupils of each ethnicity entered for History GCSE or a History A-level and number and percentage of whom were eligible for free school meals in 2009

	GCSE			*A Level*		
		FSM			*FSM*	
Ethnic grouping	*Total*	*Number*	*Percent*	*Total*	*Number*	*Percent*
African	3,393	933	27.5	300	69	23.0
Any other Asian background	1,528	216	14.1	127	14	11.0
Any other black background	608	108	17.8	53	5	9.4
Any other ethnic group	1,462	387	26.5	172	29	16.9
Any other mixed background	1,749	208	11.9	221	11	5.0

Number of pupils of each ethnicity entered for History GCSE or a History A-level and number and percentage of whom were eligible for free school meals in 2009

	GCSE			A Level		
		FSM			FSM	
Ethnic grouping	*Total*	*Number*	*Percent*	*Total*	*Number*	*Percent*
Any other white background	4,727	503	10.6	807	45	5.6
Bangladeshi	1,375	550	40.0	114	40	35.1
British	142,684	8,129	5.7	20,047	447	2.2
Caribbean	1,699	276	16.2	147	15	10.2
Chinese	631	62	9.8	87	6	6.9
Gypsy/Roma	40	9	22.5	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Indian	4,043	322	8.0	530	22	4.2
Information not obtained	974	98	10.1	181	10	5.5
Irish	742	49	6.6	196	6	3.1
Pakistani	4,150	1,124	27.1	273	65	23.8
Refused	1,391	99	7.1	230	12	5.2
Travellers of Irish heritage	7	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0.0
White and Asian	1,120	93	8.3	147	7	4.8
White and Black African	423	69	16.3	47	4	8.5
White and Black Caribbean	1504	243	16.2	130	14	10.8

[1] *Suppressed due to small numbers*

Source:

National Pupil Database (NPD).

The GCSE figures relate to pupils at the end of Key Stage 4 in maintained schools only.

The A level figures relate to students at the end of advanced level study in maintained schools and FE Colleges (including sixth form colleges).

History: Teachers

Chris Skidmore: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many secondary school teachers with a history specialism there were in each of the last five years. [15171]

Mr Gibb: The latest available information was published in Table 5.1.1 within the research report 'Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey 2007', from the following web link:

http://www.education.gov.uk/research/data/uploadfiles/DCSF-RR026.pdf

The Secondary School Curriculum and Staffing Survey (SSCSS) was a survey which was carried out every four to six years. 2002 was the year prior to 2007 and the results of this were published in Table 24 within 'Statistics of Education: School workforce in England, 2003 edition (including teachers' pay for England and Wales)', available from the following web link:

http://www.dcsf.gov.uk/rsgateway/DB/VOL/v000443/index.shtml

New Schools Network

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) whether any officials from his Department will be seconded to the New Schools Network (NSN) during the period of his Department's contract with NSN; [14954]

(2) which Minister in his Department is responsible for his Department's contract with the New Schools Network; when the contract was agreed; and if he will make a statement; [14955]

(3) whether there is a mechanism to ensure that the New Schools Network does not have any financial conflicts of interest relating to its work on behalf of his Department; [14959]

(4) whether any companies other than the New Schools Network tendered for his Department's contract for advice to potential free school providers. [14973]

Mr Gibb: There are currently no plans for officials to be seconded to New Schools Network (NSN). Lord Hill of Oareford is the Minister responsible for the policy on Free Schools. The formal grant agreement between the Department and NSN has not yet been finalised but it will include appropriate clauses on conflicts of interest and clear reporting requirements.

There was no contract let for advice to potential Free School providers and therefore there were no tenders from other companies.

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to respond to the requests made by Clifford Singer on 6 July 2010 under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 for the release of information relating to the New Schools Network. [15490]

Mr Gibb: We expect to answer Mr Singer's Freedom of Information requests shortly.

Pupil Numbers: Hounslow

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number of primary and secondary school places required in *(a)* the London Borough of Hounslow and *(b)* Brentford and Isleworth constituency in the next five years. [16090]

Mr Gibb: It is the responsibility of each local authority to manage the supply and demand for primary and secondary school places in its area and secure a place for every child of statutory school age who wants one. Ministers play no role in deciding primary and secondary school provision in individual authorities and constituencies but the Department allocates capital funding to enable local authorities to provide sufficient school places.

Reading: Teaching Methods

Graham Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to increase the uptake of the synthetic phonics method of teaching reading in primary schools. [14554]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to strengthening the teaching of reading in schools through systematic synthetic phonics. We have a wide range of plans in hand to promote this, and announcements relating to this area will be made in due course. Our aim is to ensure that no child who is capable of learning to read should leave primary education without a secure level of literacy.

Schools: Transport

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on school transport in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [16008]

Mr Gibb: The Government have received four representations about school transport in rural areas: two in response to the 'Your Freedom', cross-Government consultation, launched by the Deputy Prime Minister in July; and two letters, one from a parent and one from a pupil.

Written Questions: Government Responses

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to answer question 12028, tabled on 23 July 2010, on the New Schools Network. [15480]

Mr Gibb: A response to the hon. Member has been issued today.

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when he plans to respond to question 17883 on the Building Schools for the Future programme, tabled on 13 October 2010 for named day answer on 19 October 2010. [20441]

Mr Gibb: A response was issued to the hon. Member on 26 October, *Official Report*, columns 284-285W.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Aimhigher Scheme

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future funding of the Aimhigher scheme; and if he will make a statement. [20636]

Mr Willetts: The Government are considering the implications of the recent comprehensive spending review and the report from Lord Browne's Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance. We will make an announcement about the future of Aimhigher shortly.

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills who represents his Department on the cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism; whether any changes in that representation are planned during the next six months; and if he will make a statement. [20244]

Mr Willetts: An official from the Department's Higher Education Directorate who covers policy on anti-Semitism as part of their remit attends the cross-Government working group. No changes are planned.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the planned funding for broadband services in the Spending Review period will be allocated to *(a)* conventional and *(b)* superfast broadband services. [20551]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have made universal broadband a high priority and have allocated funding of £530 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015. The Department has not yet decided how the money should be allocated between conventional and superfast broadband services. Decisions will be informed by the responses to the Universal Service Commitment theoretical exercises run by Broadband Delivery UK over the summer and by the pilot projects announced by the Chancellor on 20 October.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the proportion of the population who will have access to 2 megabytes broadband by the end of 2010. [20702]

Mr Vaizey: The coalition Government have not made an estimate of the proportion of the population that will have access to a 2 Mbps service by the end of 2010. The Government have made universal broadband a high priority and has allocated funding of £530 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure the availability of high-speed broadband to people living in rural areas; and if he will make a statement. [20825]

Mr Vaizey: The Government have made universal broadband a high priority and has allocated funding of £530 million over the lifetime of this Parliament to stimulate private sector investment to deliver the best superfast broadband network in Europe by 2015.

Broadband: Wales

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what timetable he has set for the proposed superfast broadband pilots in Wales. [20550]

Mr Vaizey: On 20 October the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced in the spending review that there would be £530 million of funding for broadband rollout. He also announced the locations of the four superfast broadband pilot projects, which are situated in the Highlands and Islands of Scotland, Herefordshire, Cumbria and North Yorkshire.

While the pilots do not currently involve Wales, we are still in discussion with the Welsh Assembly Government and we hope that the Hereford Golden Valley Pilot could be extended to Wales.

Charity Research Support Fund

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of the Charity Research Support Fund. [20040]

Mr Willetts: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 866-67W, to the hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mrs Glindon).

Debts: Advisory Services

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* debt advice organisations and *(b)* credit unions have been funded through the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [20340]

Mr Davey: There are around 250 debt advice organisations funded via the Financial Inclusion Fund (FIF) Face-to-Face Debt Advice project. Participants include Citizens Advice Bureaux and other independent advice agencies which are members of Advice UK

The Department for Work and Pensions Growth Fund invests in the capacity of credit unions and other community finance organisations to offer access to savings, banking, insurance, budgeting and affordable credit services. Since 2006 144 credit unions and 14 other community finance organisations have received Growth Fund investment.

My Department does not have any figures on The Debt Advice in Prisons project which is run by the Legal Service Commission.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of people who have been given advice on debt and benefits through organisations funded by the Financial Inclusion Fund in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [20341]

Mr Davey: In each of the last five years, the number of individuals receiving debt advice from the Financial Inclusion Funds (FIF) Face-to-Face Debt Advice project is as follows.

Financial years	*Number*
2006/07	26,567
2007/08	92,635
2008/09	100,968
2009/10	105,155
2010 to 30 June	26,442
Total	351,767

Many of these people will also receive advice on their benefits, but we do not require our projects to provide data on this.

The Debt Advice in Prisons project run by the Legal Service Commission is also funded from FIF, but we do not have total figures for the number of clients advised under that project.

Debts: Students

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment his Department has undertaken of effects of levels of student debt on students' ability to obtain *(a)* mortgages, *(b)* small business loans and *(c)* other loans. [20266]

Mr Willetts: Income contingent student loan borrowers are not required to pay back their loan until the April after they finish their course. Repayments are based on 9% of income above the threshold of £15,000 per annum (or monthly/weekly equivalent) and linked directly to a borrower's income and not the size of their loan.

The Council for Mortgage Lenders advise that a student loan is very unlikely to materially impact on an individual's ability to get a mortgage. However, the reduction in net income may result in a commensurate reduction in the amount a mortgage lender is willing to lend. Any increase in the repayment threshold will increase the amount of net income available to borrowers.

A student's ability to obtain a loan, such as a small business loan will depend on the bank or institution approached, and their terms and conditions.

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since his Department's inception; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18774]

Mr Davey: The Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) was formed through a Machinery of Government (MoG) change that occurred in June 2009. The Department was created by merging the Department for Business Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and the Department for Innovation, Universities and Skills (DIUS).

As BIS was only created in June 2009 we have not yet had the opportunity to harmonise the allowances available to staff within this Department. The following list includes all of the allowances that are available within BIS but most of them are only claimed by a small proportion of staff. The allowances available to an individual member of staff are dependent on which of the former Departments they worked for.

Night Duty Allowance

Night Duty Officers Allowance

Offshore Allowance

On Call Allowance
Standby Allowance
Weekend Duty Press Officers
Overseas Allowance
Shift Disturbance
Foreign Language Allowance
Private Secretaries Allowance
Supervisory Allowance
Additional Housing Cost Allowance
Cost of Living Addition
Difficult Post Supplement
Private Secretary
Clothing Allowance
Excess Fares
Home Working Allowance
Detached Duty
Childcare Vouchers
Extra Duty
Childcare Expenses
Long Service Awards

The pay operations for both Departments were combined on 1 December 2009. The information provided in the following table includes payments made to all former BERR staff from 1 April 2009 until 30 November 2009 and payments made to all BIS staff from 1 December 2009 onwards. We regret that we are unable to provide details of payments made to former DIUS staff prior to 1 December 2009 as this could be done only at disproportionate cost.

BIS payments and allowances (other than salary)

£

	2009/10	*2010/11 (to September)*
Additional Housing Costs	70,360	19,678
Car Allowance	0	2,600
Cost of Living Addition (Overseas)	64,384	43,731
Difficult Post Supplement	1,285	703
Private Secretary Allowance	12,233	10,426
Clothing Allowance	2,614	437
Excess Fares	48,490	29,014
Homeworking Allowance	855	360
Detached Duty	47,787	10,302
Childcare Vouchers	28,837	41,452
Extra Duty	41,576	15,451
On Call, Stand By and Night Duty Allowance	116,839	61,234
Childcare Expenses	1,328	768
Long Service Award	1,000	500
Total	437,588	236,658

No payments have been made for allowances that are in the list but do not appear in the table.

The information for non-departmental public bodies is not held centrally and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding his Department *(a)* allocated to the Enterprise Finance Guarantee Scheme for 2010-11 and *(b)* plans to allocate to that scheme in 2011-12. [20866]

Mr Prisk: The Enterprise Guarantee will facilitate up to £700 million of additional bank lending in 2010-11 and up to £600 million in 2011-12. The Government do not provide upfront funding for EFG but pay out to lenders on claims on the guarantee where a loan defaults.

However, the Government's liability is capped at a maximum of 9.75% of the overall portfolio, thus the maximise exposure to Government of the £700 million facility is almost £70 million, and of the £600 million facility almost £60 million.

Flexible Working

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will make it his policy to extend to all employees the right to request flexible working. [20538]

Mr Davey: The coalition Government have committed to extending the right to request flexible working to all employees. I plan to consult on this in due course.

Higher Education

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on increasing the number of providers in the higher education sector; and if he will make a statement. [16891]

Mr Willetts: The Government want to make it easier for new providers who can offer excellent teaching and a high-quality experience for students to enter the higher education sector. However, this is one of a number of institutional issues in the wake of Lord Browne's independent review of higher education and student finance which requires thorough debate and consultation. We intend therefore to publish a Higher Education White Paper with detailed proposals to which experts from the sector can react, leading, subject to parliamentary time, to a Higher Education Bill in autumn 2011.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what provision he plans to make for *(a)* full-time and *(b)* part-time students of a higher education institution in circumstances in which that institution (i) closes and (ii) is obliged to close a course after such students have begun a course of study. [20669]

Mr Willetts: The interests of the students, part time and full time, are always the main concern for the Government and the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) when an institution is in difficulty. HEFCE operates a support strategy and has a track record of managed transition that has successfully protected the interests of students over a long period. The Government are considering the report of the Browne review at present and agrees that students will need to be protected as the HE system moves towards a different funding model.

On courses, institutions and not the Government are responsible for meeting their obligations to students, which would generally take the form of teaching out the remainder of the course for existing students or transfer to another institution, if a course for any reason was likely to close.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he plans to take to ensure that universities admit more students from disadvantaged backgrounds whose qualifications meet university admissions requirements. [21042]

Mr Willetts: Admissions are a matter for universities as autonomous institutions.

The coalition agreement recognises the need to attract a higher proportion of students from under-represented groups into higher education. This is one of the criteria against which we are judging the proposals of Lord Browne's Independent Review of Higher Education Funding and Student Finance. The Government have made clear their intention that access to higher education should be one the basis of ability, not ability to pay, and to this end we have already pledged £150 million to establish a new National Scholarship fund to support students from disadvantaged backgrounds.

The Government also have a key role to help young people obtain the information they need to make appropriate choices about their futures, and to help them gain the necessary qualifications. Our vision for education, including how to give young people access to high quality, expert careers guidance so that they are able to make well informed and successful choices for education and work, will be set out in a Schools White Paper, which we intend to publish later in the autumn.

Higher Education: Females

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to carry out an equality impact assessment of the effects on women of the implementation of the recommendations of the Browne Review of higher education funding. [20748]

Mr Willetts: I refer my hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead (Teresa Pearce) on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 135W.

Higher Education: Part-time Education

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what forecast he has made of the number of part-time students studying at universities in England in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [19758]

Mr Willetts: We have no reliable basis to make such estimates. HEFCE-funded student places are allocated in full-time equivalent terms with the mix of students between full-time and part-time courses being an institutional decision. The Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) will receive its annual grant letter for 2011-12 by January 2011. It will set out the number of funded places for that year. Plans for the longer term will be set out in the Higher Education White Paper this winter. We share Lord Browne's conclusion that we should extend the exemption from upfront fees to part-time students who have been unfairly discriminated against hitherto.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what change he expects in the number of private providers of higher education in the next five years in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [21077]

Mr Willetts: The Government want to make it easier for new providers who can offer excellent teaching and a high-quality experience for students to enter the higher education sector. However, this is one of a number of institutional issues in the wake of Lord Browne's independent review of higher education and student finance which requires thorough debate and consultation. We intend therefore to publish a Higher Education White Paper with detailed proposals to which experts from the sector can react, leading, subject to Parliamentary time, to a Higher Education Bill in autumn 2011.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20475]

Mr Davey: During the period October 2008 to September 2010, the Department, and its predecessors, made payments totalling £160,735 to the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Money Lenders: Crime

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have been assisted by teams established to tackle illegal money lending funded by his Department in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [20630]

Mr Davey: The Illegal Money Lending project has helped over 16,000 victims of loan sharks across the seven national teams established to tackle illegal money lending since 2004.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many convictions he estimates to have resulted from prosecutions for offences related to money lending initiated by teams established to tackle illegal money lending and funded by his Department in the last three years; and if he will make a statement. [20631]

Mr Davey: There have been 171 convictions from prosecutions initiated by illegal money lending teams across the regions since the start of the project in 2004.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department has spent on teams established to tackle illegal money lending in each of the last five years; and if he will make a statement. [20632]

Mr Davey: Since the first two pilots in Glasgow and Birmingham in 2004 and the national roll out of the project in 2007, BIS has provided funding of £22 million to teams established to tackle the problem of illegal money lending.

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for future funding from his Department of *(a)* teams established to tackle illegal money lending, *(b)* debt advice organisations and *(c)* credit unions; and if he will make a statement. [20633]

Mr Davey: Decisions regarding further funding for *(a)* teams established to tackle illegal money lending and *(b)* debt advice organisations will not be taken until Departments have considered the implications of the Spending Review.

Existing arrangements for funding credit unions through the Department for Work and Pensions Growth Fund are due to end on 31 March 2011. No firm plans beyond that date have been agreed.

Post Offices: Finance

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his estimate is of the number of post office branches which derive more than *(a)* 25 per cent., *(b)* 35 per cent., *(c)* 45 per cent. and *(d)* 55 per cent. of their revenue from Royal Mail. [21135]

Mr Davey: I have asked Paula Vennells, the managing director of Post Office Ltd, to respond directly to the right hon. Member and a copy of her reply will be placed in the Libraries of the House.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what organisations will be eligible to receive funding to support proposed investment in post offices; on what conditions; and for what purposes. [21136]

Mr Davey: It is envisaged that funding to support investment in post offices will be channelled through Post Office Ltd to post office operators. Detailed terms and conditions for this support have not yet been determined.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the level of public subsidy required for the Post Office network beyond the 2010 Spending Review period to meet the commitment that no post offices will close. [21137]

Mr Davey: We have made no detailed estimate of the level of funding required for the post office network beyond the 2010 spending review period.

Our expectation is that, as a result of the actions to be taken over the next four years, the level of public subsidy required will reduce over time.

Mr Denham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the funding for post offices announced by him on 27 October 2010 is additional to his Department's settlement in the 2010 Spending Review. [21138]

Mr Davey: The funding announced for the post office network by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on 27 October is included in the Department's settlement in the 2010 spending review.

Regional Development Agencies

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the apportionment of residual liabilities of regional development agencies. [19988]

Mr Prisk: As BIS is sponsor Department for the regional development agencies both the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with ministerial colleagues at the Department for Communities and Local Government on issues concerning the RDAs and other matters. The approach to handling RDA liabilities is set out in the Local Growth White Paper published on 28 October.

Regional Development Agencies: Closures

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department arising from liabilities of regional development agencies following their closure. [20420]

Mr Prisk: Subject to passage of the Public Bodies Bill now before Parliament, the RDAs are expected to close in March 2012. The extent of residual liabilities remaining at that point will depend on the progress made on asset transfer and disposal during the course of the next 18 months. It is not possible at present to estimate the extent of costs arising at that point.

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of the savings estimated to be made from the closure of regional development agencies by 2014-15 will be reallocated to his Department's programmes. [20552]

Mr Prisk: Funding for future departmental programmes in the Spending Review discussions was handled independently of the costs of closure of the regional development agencies. As set out in the Spending Review document, my Department will provide £200 million a year by 2014-15 to support manufacturing and business development.

Royal Mail: Edgworth

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will discuss with Royal Mail the continued provision of services *(a)* in Edgworth, Rossendale and *(b)* other small rural villages. [20652]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to the provision of the six-day a week universal postal service throughout the UK at uniform, affordable prices and firmly believe it is an essential part of our society and economy.

The primary objective of the Postal Services Bill is to protect this service. The Bill contains new and stronger protections around the service than is currently the case.

The day-to-day provision and delivery of its services are an operational matter for Royal Mail and this is overseen by the regulator, Postcomm. Any concerns about services in specific areas should in the first instance be raised with the company.

Science: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department plans to allocate for *(a)* knowledge transfer, *(b)* national academies, *(c)* the Government Office for Science and *(d)* capital expenditure from the science budget in 2011-12. [20766]

Mr Willetts: In the recent spending review the Chancellor announced that the Government will spend £4.6 billion on science and research programmes in each of the next four years within a ring-fenced budget. Capital and administration spending on science and research have not yet been decided.

In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programs. Detailed decisions on specific projects will be taken by funding bodies, in line with the Haldane Principle.

Science: Regional Planning and Development

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what proportion of expenditure channelled through regional development agencies by his Department was spent on support for science-based industry between 2007 and 2010. [20710]

Mr Prisk: The Department allocates budgets to regional development agencies. The agencies determine which projects to support, subject to the terms of the Accountability and Financial Framework and their delegated financial authorities. RDAs' investments have been guided by the regional economic strategy and their corporate plans. The Department does not hold details of individual projects supported by the RDAs within their delegated financial authorities.

Students: Fees and Charges

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students who would pay all or part of their tuition fees from their own funds under the Browne Review proposals in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [19764]

Mr Willetts: Future levels of tuition fees and support available to students from Government will depend on the response to the Browne review of Higher Education and Student Finance. This is a substantial report and we shall consult further on some of the more detailed proposals before making specific recommendations to Parliament, with a view to implementing the changes for students entering higher education in autumn 2012.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will put in place contractual arrangements to guarantee the *(a)* level at which students will start paying back student debts and *(b)* rate of interest to be charged over the 30-year life of a loan. [21027]

Mr Willetts: Currently all borrowers who receive a loan sign an undertaking on their application form which states that they will repay the lender any loans made to them with all and any interest, penalties and charges which apply. They also agree to provide the lender with all information required to ensure repayment. They sign to say that they have read and understood the booklet, "Student Loans; a guide to Terms and Conditions". This booklet clearly states that it provides information about the current terms of the loan and repayment and the regulations may change from time to time and this means the terms of the loan may also change.

Students: Finance

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will estimate the cost of means-testing parents of university students to determine student loan and student fee reduction eligibility in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12. [18535]

Mr Willetts: The total cost of processing student support applications for English students in the financial year 2009-10 was £38.3 million. We are not able to separately identify the cost of means testing household income to determine students' eligibility for support. The costs of processing applications in financial years 2010-11 and 2011-12 are not yet available.

Fee loans are not subject to means testing and are available for eligible students undertaking designated full-time courses.

Eligible full-time students are also entitled to apply for an up-front maintenance loan, 28% of which depends on their household income, and for a means-tested maintenance grant. Students who wish to apply for a maintenance loan but do not wish to provide their household income are entitled to apply for a non-means tested maintenance loan which is 72% of the maximum loan.

Technology and Innovation Centres

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what mechanisms are in place to attract private investment in the proposed technology and innovation centres; [20871]

(2) from what sources funding for the proposed technology and innovation centres will be drawn; [20872]

(3) what funding he plans to allocate to the proposed technology and innovation centres in each year of the Comprehensive Spending Review period. [20873]

Mr Willetts: The spending review will provide over £200 million of funding for technology and innovation centres over the next four years, and the annual breakdown of funding for these centres will be announced in due course.

The centres will be based on the model proposed by Hermann Hauser and James Dyson, which sees core public sector funding leverage significant contract funding from the private sector, alongside grant funding from EU and national research programmes, which in turn leverage funding from the private sector.

UK Trade and Investment: Finance

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he plans to allocate to UK Trade and Investment in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [21080]

Mr Prisk: UKTI has three main funding streams: its own directly funded UKTI programme vote, and funding contained within the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO).

The planned funding in UKTI's own programme vote pays for front line activity including grants and business support services, and is set out in the spending review 2010 (SR10) settlement, reference CM7962, table A. 12. The net funding is:

2011-12: £83 million

2012-13: £79 million

2013-14: £75 million

2014-15: £72 million.

UKTI's administration funding is ring-fenced with the BIS SR10 settlement and pays for front line and support staff based in the UK. The planned funding is:

2011-12: £39 million

2012-13: £38 million

2013-14: £36 million

2014-15: £33 million.

UKTI's FCO funding is contained within the FCO vote, and the UKTI element is yet to be finalised. This funding pays for front line staff based overseas delivering key programmes.

The funding covers the next four years of the SR10 period. UKTI has not been allocated funding beyond this four-year timeframe.

UK Trade and Investment: Manpower

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many staff were employed by UK Trade and Investment *(a)* in total and *(b)* to work on each industry sector in each of the last 10 years; how many of these were based (i) in the UK and (ii) overseas in each such year; what estimate he has made of the likely equivalent figures in each of the next five years; and if he will make a statement. [21079]

Mr Prisk: UKTI is not an employer in its own right; for the majority of its human resource requirements it draws on civil service staff employed by one or other of its two parent departments—the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) and the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO). UKTI also has business people under contract to deliver UKTI services in the English regions.

Numbers of people working for UKTI

	Total	*Overseas*	*UK*
2010	1,935	1.280	655
2009	1,980	1.300	680
2008	1.900	1.240	660
2007	1.820	1.260	560
2006	1,915	1.290	625
2005	2.250	1.540	710
2004	2,305	1.600	705
2003	2,350	1.640	710
2002	2.165	1,515	650
2001	2.225	1.530	695

Notes:

1. The overseas figures are expressed as full-time equivalents: (FTE).
2. The figures for March 2008, 2009 and 2010 include staff in the Defence and Security Organisation (DSO) which transferred to UKTI under a Machinery of Government change in 2008.
3. All figures in the table are rounded to the nearest 5.
4. The figures for the UK do not include the people working in the UKTI English regional network, the large majority of which are business people under contract to deliver UKTI services.

Sectors

Many UK Trade and Investment (UKTI) front-line staff work with companies across a wide range of sectors and information on the number of staff employed on each sector is therefore not available. They have done so for the last 10 years though sector priorities have changed during that time.

The future

UKTI's funding for next four years is set out in the spending review 2010. UKTI is currently working through detailed business planning processes, with both BIS and the FCO, to set out its future priorities. This will include sector priorities.

HEALTH

Abortion

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effect of the Gillick ruling on abortion rates between December 1984 and October 1985; and if he will make a statement. [20247]

Anne Milton: As conceptions data files for 1984 and 1985 are archived, extracting this data to provide figures for this specific period could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

There was little difference on the number of conceptions, which led to an abortion for every 1,000 women aged 13 to 15 between 1984 and 1986. The rate was 4.8 in 1984, 4.8 in 1985 and 4.8 in 1986.

Figures on conception are estimated based on the number of live births, stillbirths or legal abortions. Figures are based on the women's age at estimated date of conception. Figures for women under the age of 16 between 1984 and 1986 are given in the following table:

	Number of conceptions	*Resulting in maternity*	*Resulting in an abortion*
1984	9,700	4,300	5,400
1985	9,400	4,200	5,200
1986	9,200	4,200	5,000

Source:
Office for National Statistics

Annual abortion rates for the same period remained constant at 3.7 for women aged 16 and under, resident in England and Wales.

For under 16s seeking an abortion, guidance from the Department emphasises that health professionals should discuss the benefits of the young woman involving her parents. Where she cannot be persuaded to do so, every effort should be made to find another adult to provide support, for example another family member or specialist youth worker.

In 2005, the Department asked for a snapshot survey to be undertaken to look at the level of parental and other adult support for under 16s having abortions. The survey results showed a high level of parental involvement (around 65%), and that only 5% did not have another adult provide support.

Accident and Emergency Departments

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the NHS of treating patients attending accident and emergency units in 2009-10. [20289]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on the cost to national health service providers of treating patients attending accident and emergency units is collected annually as part of NHS reference costs. 2009-10 costs have not yet been published. Details of previous year's costs are available on the Department's website at

www.dh.gov.uk/nhscosting

Accident and Emergency Departments: Greater London

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future of the accident and emergency department at the *(a)* Whittington Hospital and *(b)* North Middlesex Hospital in North London. [20594]

Mr Simon Burns: It is the responsibility of the local national health service to plan and provide health services to meet local needs. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has outlined four tests that proposals for significant NHS service changes must now meet. Change must improve patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from general practitioner commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence. Local NHS organisations will need to make sure any plans for change meet these tests.

Acute Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which *(a)* hospital trusts and *(b)* primary care trusts have indicated their intention to undertake an acute services review which will involve reconfiguring services since May 2010. [20664]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for the design and organisation of local health services lies with the national health service locally. Therefore this information is available from the local NHS, not the Department.

This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities; to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils that are best placed to determine the nature of their local NHS services. The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients rather than driven from the top down.

In May 2010, the Secretary of State for Health outlined new strengthened criteria that he expects decisions on NHS service changes to meet. Decisions must:

focus on improving patient outcomes;
consider patient choice;
have support from GP commissioners; and
be based on sound clinical evidence.

The Department has asked the local NHS to look at how ongoing schemes meet these new criteria by the end of October 2010. Strategic health authorities will review the evidence provided to assure themselves that the four criteria are met. Any proposals for reconfiguration of services will also need to be assessed against the four criteria. We are clear that services should be driven by the need to improve patient outcomes.

Alzheimer's Disease: Public Expenditure

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the cost to the public purse has been of drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease in each of the last three years. [20182]

Paul Burstow: Drugs for the treatment of Alzheimer's disease are classified in the British National Formulary, section 4.11 Drugs for dementia. The drugs are Donepezil, Galantamine, Rivastigmine and Memantine. These together with the unlicensed drug Idebenone, comprise the figures in the tables below. Figures are for the latest available three years.

Table 1: Community cost: Net ingredient cost (NIC) of prescription items written in the UK or the Isle of Man and dispensed in the community, in England

	£000
2007	70,415.3
2008	80,162.6
2009	90,123.9

Note:
NIC is the basic cost of a drug. It does not take account of discounts, dispensing costs, fees or prescription charges income.
Source:
Prescription Cost Analysis (PCA) system.

Table 2: Hospital cost: Estimated cost of hospital usage in England

	£000
2007	12,039.1
2008	12,523.5
2009	12,238.1

Notes:
1. Figures based on a sample and costed using standard price lists, either the Drug Tariff or, if the drug is not listed, the drug manufacturer's price list. The figures therefore do not necessarily represent the actual amounts paid by the hospitals.
2. Data includes all drugs dispensed in NHS hospital regardless of patient, so will include drugs dispensed to private patients in private wards within NHS hospitals as long as they have been dispensed via the hospital pharmacy. The extent of this varies from hospital to hospital.
Source:
Hospital Pricing Audit Index (HPAI) database.

Ambulance Services: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when a performance review was last undertaken of the ambulance service in Bassetlaw; what reports were made on that review; who was informed of the outcomes of that review; and when he expects the next such review to be undertaken. [20667]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of all health and adult social care in England, and licenses health and adult social care providers if they meet essential quality and safety standards. The CQC has registered and therefore licensed East Midlands Ambulance Service NHS Trust to provide services.

The latest published national health service performance framework data (quarter four 2009-10) shows that East Midlands Ambulance Service is rated as "Performing"—the highest rating a trust can achieve (the other ratings being "Performance under review" and "Underperforming"). This data was published in "The Quarter" on 14 October 2010 which has been placed in the Library, and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Publications/PublicationsStatistics/DH_087335

Quarter one 2010-11 results are scheduled be published in the week commencing 15 November 2010.

It is for primary care trusts and strategic health authorities to work with NHS organisations to ensure they are providing an appropriate and improving level of high quality care for patients.

Arthritis: Health Services

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment has been made of the *(a)* standard and *(b)* consistency of (i) ongoing and (ii) specialist care for rheumatoid arthritis patients. [20584]

Paul Burstow: It is currently the responsibility of primary care trusts as commissioners of health care services to ensure that their populations have access to the services that they require.

In 2009, the Department developed a good practice commissioning pathway for inflammatory arthritis. This provides information to illustrate the type of services that could be commissioned and provided in different levels of care.

The Department expects local health communities to be mindful of National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) guidance when commissioning services for people with rheumatoid arthritis. A NICE commissioning guide, "Services for the diagnosis and management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults", was published in December 2009 to assist commissioners in implementing "NICE Clinical Guideline 79: the management of rheumatoid arthritis in adults" locally, including consideration of access to care for people with established rheumatoid arthritis.

Blood: Contamination

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received on the contamination of NHS blood products during the 1970s and 1980s since the entry into force of the Act; and how many such requests *(a)* were rejected, *(b)* are outstanding, *(c)* have been answered in part and *(d)* have been answered in full; [19832]

(2) what requests under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received on the contamination of blood products during the 1970s and 1980s; and if he will place in the Library a copy of each such request. [19843]

Anne Milton: The available information requested is contained in the following table:

Freedom of Information Requests 2005-10[1]

	Number
Rejected/withheld	8
Outstanding	0
Answered in part	13
Answered in full	21
Total	42

[1] Data identified from the Department of Health correspondence database, and cover requests made from 1 January 2005 to 26 October 2010.

The Department will place a copy of these requests in the Library and also publish them in due course on the Department's website at:

http://www.dh.gov.uk/en/FreedomOfInformation/Freedomofinformationpublicationschemefeedback/FOIreleases/index.htm

Breast Cancer: Screening

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will take steps to encourage women over the age of 70 years to take part in breast cancer screening; [20039]

(2) if he will review the 50 to 70 age range for breast cancer screening with the aim of extending eligibility for such screening to women under the age of 50 years. [20041]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Reform Strategy included the commitment that the NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHS BSP) would be extended to women aged 47 to 73. In June this year, we confirmed in the "Revision to the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11" that all local breast screening programmes should begin the extension in 2010-11. Based on the latest information, 14 of 82 local screening programmes have extended.

Women over the age of 70 can request free three-yearly screening and should receive the leaflet "Over 70? You are still entitled to breast screening" to advise them of this fact when they leave the NHS BSP. NHS Cancer Screening Programmes has commissioned research to examine if more can be done to raise awareness of this right.

The extension of breast cancer screening includes inviting women age 47-49, which will guarantee every woman her first breast screening invitation by the time she is 50. NHS BSP has undertaken research into screening women under 50. This research, the 'Age Trial' began in 1991, screening women from the age of 40 and 41. The results, published in December 2006, did not suggest that screening from this age would have a significant impact on the number of deaths from breast cancer. The women who participated in this trial continue to be followed up.

Cancer: Drugs

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health on what date he plans to establish the Cancer Drugs Fund; and if he will make a statement. [20179]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Drugs Fund will be established from 1 April 2011 providing an additional £200 million a year for cancer drugs over the next three years. On 27 October we launched a three month consultation on the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund. The consultation document has already been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

> www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120834

Care Homes: Inspections

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average interval is between *(a)* Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspections of a care home and *(b)* an inspection and the publication on the CQC website of the final report of that inspection. [20640]

Paul Burstow: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission.

Under the Care Standards Act 2000 the average number of days between the most recent two inspections of care homes up to 1 October 2010 was 336 days, (this figure includes annual service reviews which are not site visits but are desk based reviews/assessments).

The average number of days between the most recent two key inspections of care homes up to 1 October 2010 was 527 days.

The average number of days between the end of the site visit for care homes and the publication of the most recent key inspection report up to 1 October 2010 was 69 days.

These figures are based on care homes which were registered under the Care Standards Act 2000 as at 30 September 2010.

The new system under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 was introduced for care homes on 1 October 2010. It is too early to provide meaningful figures.

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many of the inspection reports on care homes on the Care Quality Commission website were produced prior to November 2008. [20770]

Paul Burstow: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC).

CQC holds 119,347 adult social care reports published prior to November 2008. All these reports are available via the CQC website at:

> http://caredirectory.cqc.org.uk/caredirectory/searchthecaredirectory.cfm

Care Homes: Regulation

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many care homes the Care Quality Commission regulates. [20641]

Paul Burstow: The following information has been provided by the Care Quality Commission (CQC):

> At 30 September 2010 there were a total of 18,075 adult social care homes registered with the CQC under the Care Standards Act 2000.

Updated figures under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 will be available in due course.

Carers: Voluntary Organisations

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the contribution of voluntary organisations to support for carers; and if he will make a statement. [20604]

Paul Burstow: Many carers and former carers are leaders and key players in voluntary organisations and their experience and knowledge is invaluable. This Government value the contribution and innovative work of the voluntary sector, both nationally and locally. 'Building a Stronger Civil Society Strategy' sets out how government will support charities, voluntary groups and social enterprises to maximise the opportunities arising from the power shift from central Government to local services, that underpins the Government's agenda.

Chronic Fatigue Syndrome

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals to establish an independent scientific committee to oversee research on myalgic encephalopathy; and if he will make a statement. [19866]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government support medical and clinical research. The MRC is a non-departmental public body which receives its grant in aid from the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

MRC established, in 2008, an expert group to advise it on research into chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalopathy (CFS/ME). The Government have no plans to set up a group to oversee this type of research.

Dementia: Medical Treatments

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the inappropriate prescription of anti-psychotic drugs for dementia patients. [20543]

Paul Burstow: Inappropriate prescribing of antipsychotic medication for people with dementia is completely unacceptable. Antipsychotics should only be prescribed when they are absolutely necessary. We have received representations from a range of interested parties about this issue since it was first raised. The Government are committed to achieving overall a two-thirds reduction in the use of these drugs by November 2011.

This is a key priority as signalled in the new outcomes focused implementation plan for the National Dementia Strategy, which was published on 28 September. Professor Burns, the Department's national clinical director for dementia, is leading this work. He is supported by an advisory group, which includes representation from across health, social care, the independent sector and relevant national organisations.

Dental Services

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate he has made of the number of dental *(a)* practice advisers and *(b)* consultants in dental public health required to commission dentistry for local populations; [19594]

(2) what discussions he has had with consultants in dental public health on the implications for them of his Department's White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'; [19595]

(3) what role dental practice advisers will have in commissioning dentistry under the proposals in his Department's White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. [19596]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' refers to creation of a NHS Commissioning Board and a new Public Health Service, to integrate and streamline existing health improvement. The NHS Commissioning Board will take on responsibility for commissioning national health service primary dental services, whilst the primary care trusts' (PCTs) responsibilities for local health improvement will transfer to local authorities.

Local authorities will employ the Director of Public Health jointly appointed with the Public Health Service. To discharge their functions and responsibilities, both the Public Health Service in local authorities and dental service commissioners will need appropriate advice and input from dental public health consultants, dental practice advisers and their teams, working with local clinicians.

There have been no direct discussions between Ministers and the United Kingdom consultants in dental public health group but departmental officials have met with the group on a regular basis. The group has also formally responded to the White Paper consultation and their views will be taken in to consideration.

The 'Improving oral health and dental outcomes: Developing the dental public health workforce in England' report recommends a half time appointment for a consultant in dental public health and two sessions per week for a dental practice adviser as best practice within each organisation PCTs. In light of the White Paper proposals, we may need to reconsider estimates once the new commissioning arrangements become clear.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether any new commissioning body will continue the practice of withholding money from dental surgeries which do not accept NHS patients. [19951]

Mr Simon Burns: A dental practice which is not willing to accept any national health service patients will have no entitlement to an NHS contract or payment for NHS services.

Dental Services: Fees and Charges

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on charging for NHS dental care at the point of delivery; and if he will make a statement. [19950]

Mr Simon Burns: We think it reasonable to continue the long standing policy that those who can afford it should make a contribution to the cost of national health service dental care. Children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and adults on certain benefits or low incomes do not have to pay charges.

Depression: Autism

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of parents being treated for depression whose children are on the autistic spectrum; [20180]

(2) if he will take steps to help parents on medication for depression and stress whose children are on the autistic spectrum to have respite care; and what estimate he has made of the provision of such care in 2011-12. [20181]

Paul Burstow: This Government recognise that breaks from caring is very important for carers in terms of the sort of support they want—carers have reiterated this in their response to our recent call for views on what our key priorities should be over the next four years. We are currently updating the previous Government's Carers Strategy and this will be published before the end of the year and will remind health and social care services in England of the importance of breaks to all carers, including carers of children with autism.

No formal estimate has been made specifically on the proportion of parents being treated for depression whose children are on the autistic spectrum. The Government are committed towards improving the lives of both individuals with autism and their families, and recognise the importance of providing more support to families and carers to achieve this goal.

Additionally, more and more people across England are getting access to psychological therapies for the most common mental health problems, including depression. About 140 new psychological therapy services are now up and running around the country and by March 2011 60% of primary care trusts will have an improving access to psychological therapies service, meaning many more people suffering from depression will be seen in these services.

Doctors: Foreign Workers

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to bring forward proposals to amend legislation implementing the appropriate EU directives so as to allow the administration of a language test to medical professionals qualified in other EU member states who wish to practice in the UK. [21001]

Anne Milton: Current domestic legislation provides for employers and contracting bodies to be able to undertake checks on the language knowledge of all doctors, including European Economic Area doctors, which can include administering a test.

The Department is discussing Directive 2005/35/EC with the General Medical Council.

The terms of the Directive are to be reviewed in 2012 and the Government will be providing evidence to the Commission ahead of the review.

Doctors: Manpower

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many *(a)* F1, *(b)* F2, *(c)* ST1 and (d) ST3 category doctors are currently working in hospitals in (i) Devon and (ii) Cornwall. [20491]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table:

Hospital and Community Health Services: Medical and dental doctors in training within selected organisations, as at 30 September 2009

Headcount

	Doctors in training	*Registrar group*	*Senior house officer*	*Foundation year 2*	*House officer and foundation year 1*
Plymouth Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT)	16	16	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Devon PCT	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Cornwall and Isles of Scilly PCT	1	[1]—	1	[1]—	[1]—
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	195	117	3	38	37
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	94	64	[1]—	11	19
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	280	155	21	50	54
Royal Devon and Exeter NHS Foundation Trust	311	209	23	39	40
Cornwall Partnership NHS Trust	18	18	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	478	374	5	51	48
Devon Partnership NHS Trust	31	31	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—
Torbay Care Trust	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—

[1] denotes zero

Source:
The NHS Information Centre for health and social care (Medical and Dental Workforce Census)

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people who commenced a continuous *(a)* methadone and *(b)* buprenorphone/subutex prescription of (i) 12 to 24, (ii) 24 to 48 and (iii) 48 months or more in each year since 2005. [21167]

Anne Milton: The National Drug Treatment Monitoring System (NDTMS) collects information on the number of people receiving substitute prescribing interventions for substance misuse in England, but does not distinguish between methadone and other drugs such as buprenorphine which are also recommended for the treatment of drug misuse by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE).

The National Treatment Agency took over full responsibility for managing NDTMS in 2004-05. Only the annual data from 2005-06 onwards are considered robust enough to provide detailed information about individual treatment journeys. This means that 2009-10 was the first year that robust data for those in treatment for four years or more are available.

NICE recommends that substitute prescribing should always be accompanied by psychosocial interventions.

In addition, "Drug Misuse and Dependence: UK Guidelines on Clinical Management" (2007), a copy of which has already been placed in the Library, state that any decision to maintain a patient on long-term prescribing should be an active one agreed between the clinician and patient, reviewed at regular intervals, and part of a broader programme of care-planned social and psychological support.

The following table gives a breakdown of the number of people in treatment for opioid dependency, showing how long they have been continuously receiving substitute prescribing.

	Less than 12 months	*1-2 years*	*2-3 years*	*3-4 years*	*4 years+*	*Unknown time in treatment*	*Total*
2009-10	58,773	28,947	18,045	12,747	35,120	n/a	153,632
2008-09	61,900	26,862	17,611	13,492	—	30,121	149,986
2007-08	58,659	25,946	17,886	—	—	36,228	138,719
2006-07	53,859	25,323	—	—	—	43,659	122,841
2005-06	54,693	—	—	—	—	55,681	110,374

Source:
NDTMS.

General Social Care Council

John Healey: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the performance of the General Social Care Council. [19158]

Paul Burstow: Assessment is an ongoing process. A senior official has been nominated to act as sponsor of the General Social Care Council (GSCC) with overall responsibility for oversight of its performance. The Department holds quarterly accountability meetings with the GSCC.

In June 2009, the GSCC notified the Department that a backlog of conduct referrals had been identified. An independent report by the Council for Healthcare Regulatory Excellence (CHRE) identified significant failings in the conduct function of the organisation and made recommendations for improvement. From September 2009 to April 2010, the Department held monthly accountability meetings with GSCC. The Department consider that GSCC has made progress to address these public protection issues.

On 26 July the Government announced that they intended to abolish the GSCC and transfer its regulatory functions to the Health Professions Council, which will be renamed to reflect its additional responsibilities. We believe that this presents the best way to ensure fair, consistent and proportionate regulation fully independent of Government.

Health Services: Public Expenditure

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effects of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review effect on the capacity of local healthcare providers to meet the healthcare needs of *(a)* carers and *(b)* disabled people; and if he will make a statement. [20055]

Paul Burstow: The Government announced that they would protect health care spending in the spending review. Together with an ambitious programme on efficiency, releasing up to £20 billion of annual efficiency savings over the next four years, this funding will enable the national health service to meet rising demands while improving outcomes. Primary care trusts will be able to prioritise spending to support particular groups according to local need, including carers and disabled people.

Health Services: Wakefield Prison

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will assess the standard of healthcare provided in HM Prison Wakefield to Mr David Kenyon, PC7235 BI-23, a constituent of the hon. Member for Torbay; and if he will make a statement. [20442]

Paul Burstow: Details of individuals are confidential. However, I will write to the hon. Member privately.

In line with the 2006 transfer of commissioning for healthcare in prisons to the national health service, all complaints or concerns about the standard of care received should be dealt with via the NHS complaints procedure.

Health Services: West Sussex

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect on accountability of the NHS of his proposals for decision-making in local NHS services in Crawley and West Sussex. [20853]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', sets out our vision of a national health service where providers are autonomous and accountable to local commissioners and the patients they serve, rather than being subject to bureaucratic controls. As a result, the NHS will be more accountable for the results it achieves and patients and the public will have greater power to hold healthcare professionals and providers to account. The NHS will also have greater local democratic legitimacy through a new role for local authorities in promoting integration between local NHS services, social care and health improvement.

Healthy Schools Programme: Expenditure

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on the promotion of the Healthy Schools Programme in each year since its inception. [20245]

Anne Milton: The Department of Health and Department for Education jointly fund the Healthy Schools Programme. The amount spent on promotion in the last five years is set out in the following table.

	£
2006-07	132,200
2007-08	49,285
2008-09	40,120
2009-10	83,470
2010-11	0

For the period 1999 to March 2006, there was no central expenditure on the promotion of the Healthy Schools Programme. The figures are based on central funding for advertising, conference/exhibition attendance and paid for marketing.

Hepatitis

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether he plans to propose the introduction of pilots for hepatitis C screening, early diagnosis and treatment in his forthcoming public health White Paper; [20487]

(2) whether he plans to include proposals on hepatitis C in his proposed public health White Paper. [20489]

Anne Milton: Later this year, the Department will set out a radical new approach to public health in a White Paper focused on protecting the public from health threats (such as infectious diseases and environmental hazards), improving the healthy life expectancy of the population, and improving the health of the poorest, fastest. This will include consultation on particular aspects of the new system such as how outcomes will be measured.

Professor Martin Lombard, national clinical director for liver disease, is currently leading the Department's programme of work to address liver disease in England, of which hepatitis C is a factor. The Department will then hold a public consultation on proposals.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to publish a funded hepatitis C action plan. [20490]

Anne Milton: Professor Martin Lombard, national clinical director for liver disease, is currently leading the Department's programme of work to address liver disease in England, of which hepatitis C is a factor. The Department will then hold a public consultation on proposals.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department plans to take to *(a)* (i) collect and (ii) monitor data on the prevalence of hepatitis C over the next 24 months and *(b)* identify those with the disease who have not yet presented any symptoms. [20488]

Anne Milton: The Health Protection Agency (HPA) collects, monitors and publishes data on the prevalence of hepatitis C in individuals having diagnostic tests, in injecting drug users attending specialist services and in blood donors. This surveillance will continue when the HPA's functions are transferred into the new public health service within the Department.

Since January 2010, the Department has established a number of working groups, which include clinicians and patient representatives, to support the national health service in developing a response to the rising trend in liver disease. As part of this programme, led by Professor Martin Lombard, national clinical director for liver disease, the Viral Hepatitis Cross Cutting Group has been asked to look at the prevalence of hepatitis C and how the NHS can improve the detection and diagnosis of hepatitis C.

Hospitals: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to increase the proportion of domestically produced food supplied to hospitals under contracts negotiated by NHS Supply Chain. [20574]

Mr Simon Burns: For NHS Supply Chain in 2008-09, the proportion of domestically produced food used (by value), of food that can be produced in the United Kingdom was 100% for bakery, eggs, milk, cheese and whole potatoes and more than 70% for roots, onions, brassicas, poultry, beef/veal, bacon and pork.

Under public sector procurement rules, NHS Supply Chain is prohibited from placing a geographical restriction on the origin of food in any food procurement exercise. UK producers can of course compete for any contract tendered by NHS Supply Chain.

Hospitals: Infectious Diseases

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of hospital-acquired infection were recorded in each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [20503]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on all healthcare associated infections is not collected centrally. Tables showing data for all healthcare associated infections reported under the mandatory surveillance scheme have been placed in the Library:

Glycopeptide-resistant enterococci (GREs) bloodstream infections in acute national health service trusts in England for the five 12-month periods (October 2004 to September 2009);

Trust-apportioned[1] Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections reported in acute NHS trusts in England for the last two financial years (2008-09 and 2009-10);

All MRSA bloodstream infections reported in acute NHS trusts (including cases acquired outside of hospitals) in England for the last five financial years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10);

Trust apportioned[1] Clostridium difficile infections (CDI) in people aged two years and over reported in acute NHS trusts in England for the last three[2] financial years (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10);

All Clostridium difficile infections in people aged two years and over reported in acute NHS trusts (including cases acquired outside of hospitals) in England for the last three[2] financial years (2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10);

All Clostridium difficile infections in people aged 65 years and reported in acute NHS trusts (including cases acquired outside of hospitals) in England for the last five financial years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2009-10); and

Surgical site infections (selected orthopaedic procedures) reported in acute NHS trusts in England for the five financial years (2005-06, 2006-07, 2007-08, 2008-09 and 2[illegible]9-10).

Notes:

[1] By calculating the elapsed time between a patient's admission date and the reported specimen date, the data capture system now allows for indirect identification of cases that may have been acquired within the reporting trust. This became possible for CDI from April 2007, and for MRSA from April 2008.

[2] In April 2007, mandatory surveillance of CDI was expanded from just those aged over 65 to everyone two years and over.

Hospitals: Mortuaries

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which hospitals in England with acute services have no mortuary. [20663]

Mr Simon Burns: This information is not collected centrally.

Liver Diseases: Health Services

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to issue his Department's liver strategy. [20486]

Mr Simon Burns: Professor Martin Lombard, national clinical director for liver disease is currently leading work with the national health service and public health specialists to ensure that our response to the rising demand for liver disease services is evidence based, and that we also work to improve the quality and productivity of services. We expect that first formal proposals will be published for consultation in 2011.

Maternity Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many non-elective interventions were made by consultants in maternity departments in each hospital in 2009. [20666]

Anne Milton: Information is not available in the format requested.

The following table shows the number of finished consultant episodes (FCEs) in 2009-10 by hospital provider, where the method of admission was non-elective, where there was an operating procedure or intervention and where the main speciality was obstetrics. A FCE is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider.

It should be noted that FCEs do not represent the number of patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

A count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[1] where the method of admission[2] was not elective, where there was any main operating procedure or intervention[3], and where the main speciality[4] was obstetrics, by hospital providers for 2009-10 Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Hospital provider	*2009-10*
England	365,317
Airedale NHS Trust	9
Barking, Havering and Redbridge University Hospitals NHS Trust	2,935
Barnet and Chase Farm Hospitals NHS Trust	4,858
Barnsley Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,235
Barts and the London NHS Trust	334
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	327
Bedford Hospital NHS Trust	47
Birmingham Treatment Centre	0
Birmingham Women's NHS Foundation Trust	7,776
Blackpool, Fylde and Wyre Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,900
Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,712
Bromley Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	592
Burton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3,508
Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust	1,503
Cambridge University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4,093
Central Manchester University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,604
Chelsea and Westminster Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5,862
Chesterfield Royal Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,025
City Hospitals Sunderland NHS Foundation Trust	3,455
Colchester Hospital University NHS Foundation Trust	7
Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,401
County Durham and Darlington NHS Foundation Trust	5,103
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	3,071
Derby Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,791
Derbyshire County PCT	0
Dorset County Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	910
Ealing Hospital NHS Trust	1,496
East and North Hertfordshire NHS Trust	5,451
East Cheshire NHS Trust	1,061
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	3,012
East Lancashire Hospitals NHS Trust	4,399
Epsom and St Helier University Hospitals NHS Trust	4,265
Gateshead Health NHS Foundation Trust	2,009
George Eliot Hospital NHS Trust	391
Gloucestershire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,827
Great Western Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,912
Guy's and St Thomas' NHS Foundation Trust	3,824
Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust	1,902
Heart of England NHS Foundation Trust	11,631
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,718
Hereford Hospitals NHS Trust	2,151
Hinchingbrooke Health Care NHS Trust	162
Homerton University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,287
Hull and East Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	2,317
Imperial College Healthcare NHS Trust	6,323
Ipswich Hospital NHS Trust	277
James Paget University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,464
Kettering General Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,379
King's College Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	2,297
Kingston Hospital NHS Trust	6,098
Lancashire Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4,389

A count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[1] where the method of admission[2] was not elective, where there was any main operating procedure or intervention[3], and where the main speciality[4] was obstetrics, by hospital providers for 2009-10—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Hospital provider	*2009-10*
Leeds Teaching Hospitals NHS Trust	7,263
Liverpool Women's NHS Foundation Trust	8,473
Luton and Dunstable Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,613
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	121
Mayday Healthcare NHS Trust	3,899
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	238
Mid Cheshire Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,987
Mid Essex Hospital Services NHS Trust	692
Mid Staffordshire NHS Foundation Trust	2,378
Mid Yorkshire Hospitals NHS Trust	3,461
Milton Keynes hospital NHS Foundation Trust	*
Newham University Hospital NHS Trust	*
Norfolk and Norwich University Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,515
North Bristol NHS Trust	4,886
North Cumbria University Hospitals NHS Trust	3,293
North Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	206
North Tees and Hartlepool NHS Foundation Trust	3,662
North West London Hospitals NHS Trust	3,895
Northampton General Hospital NHS Trust	622
Northern Devon Healthcare NHS Trust	616
Northern Lincolnshire and Goole Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	1,533
Northumbria Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	3,194
Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust	5,786
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	1,342
Pennine Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	10,491
Peterborough and Stamford Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	3,438
Plymouth Hospitals NHS Trust	4,963
Poole Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	3,213
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	3,391
Queen Elizabeth Hospital NHS Trust	0
Queen Mary's Sidcup NHS Trust	0
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	2,978
Royal Bolton Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	0
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Royal Cornwall Hospitals NHS Trust	1,286
Royal Free Hampstead NHS Trust	1,622
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	2,356
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	0
Salford Royal NHS Foundation Trust	1,670
Salisbury NHS Foundation Trust	0
Sandwell and West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust	3,253
Scarborough and North East Yorkshire Health Care NHS Trust	1,354
Sheffield Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,904
Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	621
Shrewsbury and Telford Hospital NHS Trust	1,475
South Devon Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust	1,574
South London Healthcare NHS Trust	11,038
South Staffordshire PCT	*
South Tees Hospitals NHS Trust	3,144
South Tyneside NHS Foundation Trust	1,591
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	3,848
Southend University Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	1,398
St George's Healthcare NHS Trust	1,088
St Helens and Knowsley Hospitals NHS Trust	4,616
Stockport NHS Foundation Trust	2,098
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	1,441
Taunton and Somerset NHS Foundation Trust	*
The Dudley Group of Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	4,855
The Hillingdon Hospital NHS Trust	3,010
The Lewisham Hospital NHS Trust	3,492
The Newcastle Upon Tyne Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	6,246
The Princess Alexandra Hospital NHS Trust	2,174
The Queen Elizabeth Hospital King's Lynn NHS Trust	1,713

A count of finished consultant episodes (FCEs)[1] where the method of admission[2] was not elective, where there was any main operating procedure or intervention[3], and where the main speciality[4] was obstetrics, by hospital providers for 2009-10—Activity in English NHS Hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector

Hospital provider	*2009-10*
The Rotherham NHS Foundation Trust	996
The Royal Wolverhampton Hospitals NHS Trust	4,051
The Whittington Hospital NHS Trust	484
Trafford Healthcare NHS Trust	1,000
University College London Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	5,236
University Hospital of North Staffordshire NHS Trust	4,671
University Hospital of South Manchester NHS Foundation Trust	1,224
University Hospitals Bristol NHS Foundation Trust	4,554
University Hospitals Coventry and Warwickshire NHS Trust	2,566
University Hospitals of Leicester NHS Trust	5,171
University Hospitals of Morecambe Bay NHS Trust	0
Walsall Hospitals NHS Trust	3,599
Warrington and Halton Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	27
West Hertfordshire Hospitals NHS Trust	4,878
West Middlesex University Hospital NHS Trust	4,504
West Suffolk hospitals NHS Trust	1,726
West Sussex PCT	*
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	1,390
Whipps Cross University Hospital NHS Trust	1,653
Wiltshire PCT	*
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	0
Wirral University Teaching Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	5,049
Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust	2,477
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	0
Wrightington, Wigan and Leigh NHS Foundation Trust	3,282
Yeovil District Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	309
York Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	2,334

Notes:

1. Finished Consultant Episode (FCE)

A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

2. Method of Admission

We have defined non-elective admissions by the following admission method codes:

21: Emergency—via A and E services, including casualty department of provider
22: Emergency—via General Practitioner (GP)
23: Emergency—via Bed Bureau, including Central Bureau
24: Emergency—via consultant out-patient clinic
28: Emergency—other means, including patients who arrive via A and E department of another HC provider
31: Maternity—where baby was delivered after mother's admission
32: Maternity—where baby was delivered before mother's admission
81: Transfer of any admitted patient from another hospital provider
82: Other—babies born in HC provider
83: Other—babies born outside HC provider, except when born at home as intended
98: Not applicable (e.g. other maternity event)
99: Not known

3. Main procedure

The first recorded procedure or intervention in each episode, usually the most resource intensive procedure or intervention performed during the episode. It is appropriate to use main procedure when looking at admission details, (e.g. time waited), but a more complete count of episodes with a particular procedure is obtained by looking at the main and the secondary procedures.

4. Consultant Main Specialty

The specialty under which the consultant responsible for the care of the patient at that time is registered. Take care when analysing HES data by specialty, or by groups of specialties (such as "acute"). Trusts have different ways of managing specialties and attributing codes so it is better to analyse by specific diagnoses, operations or other patient or service information.

Main speciality of obstetrics

501—Obstetrics for patients using a hospital bed or delivery facilities

5. Hospital Provider

A provider code is a unique code that identifies an organisation acting as a health care provider (e.g. NHS trust or PCT). Hospital providers can also include treatment centres (TC). Normally, if data are tabulated by health care provider, the figure for an NHS trust gives the activity of all the sites as one aggregated figure. However, in the case of those with embedded treatment centres, this data is quoted separately. In these cases, '—X' is appended to the code for the rest of the trust, to remind users that the figures are for all sites of the trust excluding the treatment centres. The quality of TC returns are such that data may not be complete. Some NHS trusts have not registered their TC as a separate site, and it is therefore not possible to identify their activity separately. Data from some independent sector providers, where the onus for arrangement of dataflows is on the commissioner, may be missing. Care must be taken when using these data as the counts Small numbers

To protect patient confidentiality, figures between one and five have been replaced with "*" (an asterisk). Where it was still possible to identify numbers from the total an additional number (the next smallest) has been replaced.

Data quality

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) are compiled from data sent by more than 300 NHS trusts and primary care trusts (PCTs) in England and from some independent sector organisations for activity commissioned by the English NHS. The NHS Information Centre for health and social care liaises closely with these organisations to encourage submission of complete and valid data and seeks to minimise inaccuracies. While this brings about improvement over time, some shortcomings remain.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care

Multiple Sclerosis

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of people with multiple sclerosis, including those not diagnosed; how much the NHS has spent on treating multiple sclerosis in each of the last 10 years; and from what sources such figures are derived. [20132]

Paul Burstow: The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence estimated, in 2003, that the number of people diagnosed with multiple sclerosis in England and Wales at between 52,000 and 62,000. The numbers of those with undiagnosed multiple sclerosis is not collected.

Information on the expenditure for treating those with multiple sclerosis is not collected.

Muscular Dystrophy

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to improve care and assistance for people with Duchenne muscular dystrophy; and if he will make a statement. [20772]

Paul Burstow: It is the responsibility of health and care professionals, working in conjunction with patients and their families, to arrange the most appropriate health and social care for those living with Duchenne muscular dystrophy. The National Service Framework for long-term conditions (NSF) provides an overview how this care should be provided. The 11 quality requirements of the NSF are compatible with more condition specific standards of care, such as the international TREAT-NMD recommendations for Duchenne muscular dystrophy.

In future, outcomes, which the national health service will be expected to achieve, will be set via the NHS Outcomes Framework, and the NHS Commissioning Board will hold general practitioner commissioners to account for delivery through the framework.

National Treatment Agency: Finance

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the budget for the National Treatment Agency *(a)* was in 2009 and *(b)* will be in each of the next three years. [21013]

Anne Milton: Details of the National Treatment Agency's (NTA) accounts are published in their annual report each year and copies for 2008-09 (HC579) and 2009-10 (HC89) are available in the Library. The NTA's budget for 2010-11 have been published in their business plan and a copy of this has been placed in the Library. The budget for 2011-12 have yet to be decided, and from 2012-13, the NTA will be incorporated into the Public Health Service.

NHS: Lobbying

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which NHS bodies have *(a)* subscribed to and *(b)* funded organisations with an objective of influencing public policy in each of the last five years; and how much has been paid to each such organisation in each such year. [19406]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department collects accounting data from national health service organisations through:

the audited summarisation schedules; and
the financial returns.

The audited summarisation schedules primarily collect data required by the Department to fulfil its statutory accounting requirements, and the financial returns provide an additional lower level breakdown of this data.

Neither collection contains data on whether NHS bodies have subscribed to and/or funded organisations with an objective of influencing public policy.

NHS: Local Government

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what functions of his Department have been transferred to local authorities since May 2010; what functions he plans to transfer to local authorities in the next 12 months; and what estimate he has made of the likely savings to his Department as a result of such transfers in each of the next three years. [21015]

Mr Simon Burns: No functions of the Department have transferred to local authorities since May 2010. The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' proposed a stronger role for local authorities in supporting joined up working across health and social care and primary care trusts (PCTs) current responsibilities for public health improvement would transfer to local authorities. The responses to consultations related to the white paper are currently being analysed, so no final decisions have yet been taken. The Government intend to bring detailed proposals before Parliament later this year in a Health Bill.

NHS: Sick Leave

Simon Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* sickness absence rate and *(b)* estimated cost to the NHS of sickness absence was in each NHS trust in each of the last five years. [20502]

Mr Simon Burns: Information is not available in the form requested. The NHS Information Centre publishes quarterly figures on NHS sickness absence drawn from the national health service electronic staff record. Between April 2009 and March 2010, the average sickness absence rate for the NHS in England was 4.38%. The latest NHS Information Centre publication (October 2010) shows the rate of NHS sickness absence (April to June 2010) as 3.89%. However, there is a seasonal element to sickness absence. The Boorman Review of NHS Health and Well-being (November 2009), reported an estimated annual rate of 4.5%.

Individual pay information is not held centrally, and is held locally at trust level. It is therefore not known how many staff are on paid or unpaid sickness. However, the Boorman Review, estimated that reported levels of sickness absence results in a loss of 10.3 million days per year, equivalent to 45,000 whole time equivalent staff and an estimated annual direct cost of £1.7 billion.

NHS: Telephone Services

Patrick Mercer: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many call centres based outside the UK the NHS uses. [20514]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS), which provides business support services to the national health service operates two call centres in India, located in Pune and Noida. These call centres only handle inquiries from internal NHS clients and do not take calls from patients or the public. The Department does not hold information about the remainder of the NHS.

North West Strategic Health Authority: Redundancy

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the redundancy costs which will be incurred as a result of the decision to abolish *(a)* the North West Strategic Health Authority and *(b)* Warrington Primary Care Trust. [19907]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' set out proposals for fundamental changes to the way that the national health service is structured and run. The precise costs, at both national and local level, of any redundancies that will be incurred as a result of the decision to abolish the strategic health authorities and primary care trusts are not yet known, though efforts will be made to minimise the number and cost of redundancies.

Four consultations relating to how the new organisations should be designed specifically covering "transparency on outcomes, liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health and commissioning for patients and regulating healthcare providers" have recently closed and once the results of these have been analysed, we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

Organs: Donors

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many organs were donated in each of the last 10 years. [20637]

Anne Milton: The number of organs donated in each of the last 10 years is shown in the following table.

Number of organs donated in the United kingdom, 1 April 2000 to 31 March 2010

Financial year	*Organs from deceased donors*	*Organs from living donors*	*Total*
2000-01	3,455	372	3,827
2001-02	2,999	386	3,385
2002-03	2,768	397	3,165
2003-04	2,785	472	3,257
2004-05	2,680	485	3,165
2005-06	2,689	599	3,288
2006-07	2,861	702	3,563
2007-08	2,947	858	3,805
2008-09	3,252	961	4,213
2009-10	3,375	1,062	4,437
Total	29,811	6,294	36,105

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to increase the number of people registered as organ donors; and if he will make a statement. [20771]

Anne Milton: There are a range of ongoing activities to promote organ donation. In autumn 2009, NHS Blood and Transplant launched a UK-wide public awareness campaign to encourage more people to join the Organ Donor Register (ODR), and to discuss their wishes in relation to organ donation with family members. NHS Blood and Transplant also work in partnerships with the national health service, commercial and third sector organisations to support local events around the country or national initiatives such as joining the ODR when registering with a doctor, or applying for a driving license.

The Organ Donation Taskforce believed that by implementing the recommendations in their report "Organs for Transplant" published in January 2008, organ donor rates can increase by 50% by 2013 which would enable around 1,200 extra transplants every year.

Steady improvement is being made. During 2009-10, organ donor rates increased to nearly 20% over the baseline year of 2007-08. Our aim is to see organ donor rates continue to rise this year allowing many more people to benefit from a life saving or life enhancing transplant.

Pharmaceuticals

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what criteria the National Institute for Clinical Excellence uses to determine which pharmaceuticals may be funded to treat extremely rare conditions; and if he will provide funding from the Cancer Drugs Fund for the provision of mifamurtide for the treatment of osteosarcoma. [20074]

Paul Burstow: Following the referral of a topic to the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE), technology appraisal guidance is developed in accordance with NICE'S published process and methods guides which are available on NICE'S website at:

www.nice.org.uk/aboutnice/howwework/devnicetech/technologyappraisalprocessguides/technology_appraisal_process_guides.jsp

Funding for specific drugs from the £50 million interim cancer drugs funding made available in the current financial year is a matter for the local clinically-led regional panels based on the advice of cancer specialists.

The Cancer Drugs Fund will be established from 1 April 2011 providing an additional £200 million a year for cancer drugs over the next three years. On 27 October we launched a three month consultation on the operation of the Cancer Drugs Fund. A copy of the consultation document has been placed in the Library and is available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Consultations/Liveconsultations/DH_120834

Primary Care Trusts: Manpower

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many full-time equivalent staff were employed by primary care trusts *(a)* on 20 September 2009 and *(b)* on the most recent date for which figures are available. [20901]

Mr Simon Burns: The annual national health service work force census shows that at 30 September 2009 there were 207,833 full-time equivalent staff employed by primary care trusts. The latest monthly NHS Hospital and Community Health Service workforce statistics in England show that in July 2010 there were 205,985 full-time equivalent staff employed by primary care trusts.

Primary Care Trusts: Negligence

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the financial value of compensation payments was to patients for clinical malpractice in each primary care trust in each year since 2000. [20068]

Mr Simon Burns: The NHS Litigation Authority (NHSLA) supplied the information requested in tables which have been placed in the Library.

The NHSLA administers schemes, on behalf of the Secretary of State for Health, that assist members with clinical negligence claims. All primary care trusts (PCTs) are members. Before April 2002, one of the schemes operated by the NHSLA operated 'excess' levels where trusts, rather than the NHSLA, handled and settled claims below the excess level. Neither the Department nor the NHSLA holds data on claims valued below 'excess'. Additionally, PCTs were introduced on a rolling basis from April 2000, with full coverage from October 2002. Data covering years before April 2003 is therefore not comparable with data covering years from April 2003 onwards.

The NHSLA report that no payments were made on behalf of PCTs in the year 2000-01.

Primary Health Care: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's funding in real terms for primary healthcare in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [20292]

Mr Simon Burns: Future revenue resource funding for the Department was set out as part of spending review 2010. The national health service will receive funding of £102.6 billion/£105.2 billion/£108.2 billion/£111.1 billion in years 2011-12 up to 2014-15 (see table A10 of statistical annex to the spending review); a cumulative real growth of 1.4% over the four years.

Work is currently ongoing to determine the disposition of this funding including the amount in primary care trust (PCT) allocations. Having set PCT allocations, final decisions on funding growth for primary, community and secondary care are made locally.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of his Department's capital funding for primary health care providers in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [20293]

Mr Simon Burns: Future capital funding for the Department was set out as part of spending review 2010. The national health service will receive funding of £4.4 billion/£4.4 billion/£4.4 billion/£4.6 billion in years 2011-12 up to 2014-15 (see Table A6 of statistical annex to the spending review).

Discussions remain ongoing over the disposition of this funding between the different health sectors. Final decisions on the level of capital expenditure in primary and secondary care are determined locally.

Recruitment

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many staff his Department plans to *(a)* recruit and *(b)* transfer to new duties as a result of implementation of proposals for the reform of those non-departmental public bodies within his Department's area of responsibility; and how many redundancies he expects to result from the implementation of those proposals. [19824]

Mr Simon Burns: The reforms to the Department's Executive non-departmental public bodies were announced in the report of "The Arm's Length Bodies Review", published in July 2010. Further work is under way, to plan for implementation of the reforms, before estimates can be made of staff transfers and redundancies, and of the costs entailed.

Reducing Cancer Inequality: Evidence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress has been made on the implementation of the recommendations of his Department's report on Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen; and if he will make a statement; [20117]

(2) what steps he is taking to address age inequalities in outcomes for cancer patients; [20118]

(3) if he will commission research into ageism in the treatment of cancer patients; and if he will make a statement; [20160]

(4) what assessment he has made of research by his Department into ageism in cancer treatment; and if he will make a statement. [20161]

Paul Burstow: The NHS Constitution makes clear that a core duty of the national health service is to promote equality, and the Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) made this a priority for NHS cancer services.

Progress on the recommendations in the report, "Reducing cancer inequality: evidence, progress and making it happen", which was published by the National Cancer Equality Initiative (NCEI) in March this year, will be reported in the review of the CRS which is currently under way. The report will be published in the winter.

The NCEI report identified the need for further research around age inequalities in three areas: firstly, to look at why the reduction in mortality in older people is slower than for younger people and slower compared to other countries; secondly, to examine to what extent poor patient health and patient choice contribute to poorer outcomes; and finally, to look at how effective pre-treatment health assessments would be in reducing adverse outcomes in health inequalities.

Through the National Institute for Health Research, the Department funds a significant amount of cancer research. At this time, we are aware of a research application to the NIHR that intends to examine issues around outcomes for older breast cancer patients.

The Department is working with Macmillan Cancer Support on a jointly funded project that aims to improve appropriate intervention rates for people over 70 who have a cancer diagnosis. The pilot programme aims to identify, test and evaluate ways to assess an older person for cancer treatment; to provide practical support and information to aid patient/practitioner decision making; and to train professionals involved in the pathway to promote age equality and address age discrimination.

It is anticipated that the pilot projects will run for a 12 month period with the pilots taking place between May 2011 and April 2012. We will then evaluate whether the approaches tested can have a positive impact on intervention and mortality rates for older people.

Sexually Transmitted Diseases: Expenditure

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much the National Health Service spent on treatment of sexually transmitted diseases in *(a)* males and *(b)* females under 16 years of age in each of the last five years for which information is available. [20246]

Anne Milton: The Department does not collect information on national health service expenditure on treating sexually transmitted infections broken down by age and sex of patients.

Social Services: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely size of transfer of funds from the health care budget to fund local authority social care as a result of the 2010 spending review. [20294]

Paul Burstow: The spending review set out that, over the spending review period, an additional £3.8 billion will be made available within the national health service to be spent on measures that support social care. The profile, in each of the years from 2011-12 to 2014-15 is as follows: £0.8 billion/£0.9 billion/£1.1 billion/£1.0 billion.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to ensure that funds transferred from health care budgets to local authority social care are spent on social care. [20295]

Paul Burstow: In order to support social care, the national health service will transfer some funding from the health capital budget to health revenue, to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. Further details about this support will be published alongside the 2011-12 NHS Operating Framework.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what correspondence he has received from *(a)* local authority leaders, *(b)* councillors with lead responsibility for social care and *(c)* local authority directors of social services on the likely effects on the provision of social care of the outcomes of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [20390]

Paul Burstow: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State has received no correspondence of this nature since the comprehensive spending review was announced on 20 October 2010.

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the effect of reductions in local authority social care funding on the level of service provided by such authorities to disabled individuals and their families. [20836]

Paul Burstow: The coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes. We expect that this will benefit all users of social care services, including people with disabilities and their families.

Streptococcus: Babies

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps his Department has taken to inform *(a)* relevant health professionals and *(b)* pregnant women of the symptoms and prevention of group B streptococcus infections in babies; [21082]

(2) what guidelines his Department issues to NHS trusts on preventing Group B Streptococcal infection in newborn babies. [21098]

Anne Milton: Current guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists is provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), which published its Green-top guideline No. 36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal Group B Streptococcus disease in November 2003. In 2005, the RCOG, in collaboration with the National Screening Committee, established a national audit to evaluate practice in United Kingdom obstetric units against the recommendations of the guideline. The audit published in January 2007, reported that current practice followed the established patterns of care described in the RCOG guideline.

The Department supports the Standards for Maternity Care published by the RCOG in 2008, which state that maternity services should comply with evidence-based guidelines for the provision of high-quality clinical care.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines for routine antenatal care, published in 2008, recommends that pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for Group B Streptococcus because evidence of its clinical and cost-effectiveness remains uncertain.

Information for women on Group B Streptococcus is contained in "The Pregnancy Book"—a guide to a healthy pregnancy, labour and childbirth, and life with a new baby, which is given to all pregnant women. Information is also available on the NHS Direct website at:

www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk

and NHS Choices website at:

www.nhs.uk

Women who are concerned about Group B Streptococcus infection are advised to talk to their doctor or midwife.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what steps are being taken by his Department to increase levels of compliance with the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists' guidelines on preventing Group B Streptococcal infection in newborn babies; [21097]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to health professionals on implementation in maternity units of the guidelines issued by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists for preventing Group B Streptococcus infection in newborn babies. [21100]

Anne Milton: We encourage the national health service to take into account the guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), which published its Green-top guideline No.36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal Group B Streptococcal disease in November 2003. In 2005, the RCOG, in collaboration with the National Screening Committee, established a national audit to evaluate practice in United Kingdom obstetric units against the recommendations of the guideline. The audit published in January 2007, reported that current practice followed the established patterns of care described in the RCOG guideline.

The Department supports the Standards for Maternity Care published by the RCOG in 2008, which state that maternity services should comply with evidence-based guidelines for the provision of high-quality clinical care.

Streptococcus: Pregnancy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what measures he uses to ensure that high-quality information on group B streptococcus is given to all pregnant women as a routine part of their antenatal care; [21083]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure that pregnant women are informed about Group B Streptococcus as part of their antenatal care. [21101]

Anne Milton: Information for women about Group B Streptococcus (GBS) is contained in 'the Pregnancy Book'—a guide to healthy pregnancy, labour and childbirth, and life with a new baby, which is given to all pregnant women. Information is also available on the NHS Direct www.nhsdirect.nhs.uk and NHS Choices www.nhs.uk websites. Women who are concerned about GBS infection are advised to talk to their doctor or midwife.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to strategic health authorities on the provision of tests to pregnant women for Group B Streptococcus infection. [21099]

Anne Milton: The Department does not issue guidance to strategic health authorities on the provision of tests to pregnant women for group B streptococcus (GBS) infection.

Current guidance for obstetricians, midwives and neonatologists is provided by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG), which published its Green-top guideline No. 36 on the prevention of early-onset neonatal GBS disease in November 2003.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence clinical guidelines for routine antenatal care, published in 2008, recommends that pregnant women should not be offered routine antenatal screening for GBS because evidence of its clinical and cost effectiveness remains uncertain.

Strokes: Health Services

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he made of the health outcomes in respect of each of his Department's performance indicators for emergency stroke admissions in each hospital in the latest period for which figures are available. [20665]

Mr Simon Burns: There is sound evidence that admittance to a stroke unit is the single, most effective intervention for people who have had a stroke to achieve the best possible outcomes.

The Vital Sign for stroke measures the number of people who are admitted to hospital following a stroke who then spend 90% or more of their time on a stroke unit; and the number of transient ischaemic attack cases with a higher risk of stroke who are subsequently assessed and treated within 24 hours in an out-patient setting. The data are published on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Publicationsandstatistics/Statistics/Performancedataandstatistics/Vitalsignsmonitoring/DH_112528

Copies of the two documents have been placed in the Library.

The quarter two figures will be available on this website on 17 November 2010.

The NHS Information Centre does not hold the data requested. Health Episode Statistics does not hold information on outcomes.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to ensure that patients admitted to hospital following a stroke are placed in a specialist stroke unit. [20767]

Mr Simon Burns: The National Stroke Strategy and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Quality Standard for Stroke are clear that people with stroke should receive an early multi-disciplinary assessment and have prompt access to a high-quality stroke unit. To reflect this, the Best Practice Tariff for stroke incentivises direct admission to a stroke unit and access to timely brain imaging, and the Tier 1 Vital Sign for stroke measures the proportion of patients who spend at least 80% of their time in hospital on a stroke unit. The Accelerating Stroke Improvement Programme, which is supported by the Department, the Stroke Improvement Programme and the stroke networks, is aimed at making further improvements across the stroke care pathway including ensuring that the majority of patients are treated in stroke units.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to improve the availability of continuous non-invasive physiological monitoring for patients admitted to hospital following an acute stroke. [20768]

Mr Simon Burns: Intensive physiological monitoring in the early phase of a stroke is important in identifying and supporting early treatment that can halt stroke progression and minimise the degree of brain damage. All acute stroke units should provide high-dependency care including physiological monitoring. The National Stroke Strategy and the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence quality standard set out the elements of high quality care. It is for the national health service to ensure that these standards are met, including provision of access to good stroke care out of hours and at week ends. Support is available to implement improvements to acute care from the Stroke Improvement Programme and the stroke networks.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to encourage the training of more stroke specialist registrars. [20811]

Mr Simon Burns: In order to support the implementation of the National Stroke Strategy, the Department provided funding over the last three years to train more stroke specialist physicians. Central funding has been provided for the training of 26 junior doctors and a further tranche will undergo training this year. It is for local national health service organisations to plan and deliver a workforce appropriate to the needs of their local population based on clinical need and sound evidence.

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on improving access to specialist early stroke-supported discharge teams. [20812]

Mr Simon Burns: The Accelerating Stroke Improvement Programme, which is supported by the Department, the Stroke Improvement Programme and the stroke networks, is aimed at making further improvements across the stroke care pathway including concentrating effort on the introduction of high quality, early supported discharge across the country so that all stroke survivors who can benefit have access to it. The Accelerating Stroke Improvement Programme was developed in response to Committee of Public Accounts report, "Progress In Improving Stroke Care", which concluded, among other things, that not enough hospitals arrange early supported discharge for stroke patients, even though it provides better outcomes for many patients and can save money.

Swine Flu: Vaccination

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what proportion of the vaccines and anti-virals purchased in preparation for the swine flu pandemic were not used. [20875]

Anne Milton: The proportion of H1N1 influenza vaccine held centrally for the United Kingdom is 51% of the quantity procured. Part of this stock (8 million doses, representing 18% of the total quantity procured) has date expired or is close to date expiry. H1N1 influenza vaccines continue to be used as recommended in the 2010-11 seasonal influenza immunisation programme.

Antivirals were purchased as part of our overall planning for influenza preparedness rather than being purchased specifically for the H1N1 pandemic. We continue to hold antiviral stockpiles for over 50% of the population as part of our preparedness planning for the next influenza pandemic.

Thromboembolism

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of *(a)* venous thromboembolism characterised by (i) deep vein thrombosis and (ii) pulmonary embolism, *(b)* MRSA and *(c)* clostridium difficile were recorded in patients in NHS facilities in each of the last five years. [19844]

Mr Simon Burns: There is currently no single definition of venous thromboembolism (VTE) available in the International Classification of Diseases, Tenth Revision (ICD-10) system used to classify diseases. Therefore, we have provided data on deep vein thrombosis (DVT) and pulmonary embolism (PE) in the following table.

Patients treated by their general practitioner or as out-patients are not included. Some DVTs manifest themselves as PE. This means that a number of the patients who have been diagnosed with PE will also have been diagnosed with a DVT. It would not be advisable to sum the number of episodes for PE and DVT because of the potential for double-counting.

Count of finished consultant episodes[1] with a main or secondary diagnosis[2] of DVT and PE, 2004-05 to 2008-09, England[3]

	Finished consultant episodes by diagnosis[4]		
	DVT		
	All relevant ICD codes[5]	ICD-10 I80.2[5]	PE[6]
2004-05	59,695	46,303	40,059
2005-06	63,373	48,952	43,360
2006-07	61,459	46,257	46,685
2007-08	61,050	46,031	49,114
2008-09	62,066	46,786	56,029

[1] A finished consultant episode (FCE) is a continuous period of admitted patient care under one consultant within one health care provider. FCEs are counted against the year in which they end. Figures do not represent the number of different patients, as a person may have more than one episode of care within the same stay in hospital or in different stays in the same year.

[2] The information is the number of episodes where this diagnosis was recorded in any of the 20 (14 from 2004-05 to 2006-07) primary and secondary diagnosis fields in a Hospital Episode Statistics (HES) record. Each episode is only counted once, even if the diagnosis is recorded in more than one diagnosis field of the record.

[3] Activity in English national health service hospitals and English NHS commissioned activity in the independent sector.

[4] Counts for the different diagnoses shown are not necessarily mutually exclusive and therefore summing the different diagnoses is not possible (e.g. a patient may have a DVT and a PE in a single episode, and would be counted once in each relevant column—double counting would occur if the values were summed).

[5] Diagnosis is recorded in HES using ICD-10 codes. ICD-10 code I80.2 is used for a diagnosis of DVT where there is no further information on the site of the thrombosis. However DVT may also be recorded under a number of different codes, although these codes may also include cases which are not considered deep. The full list of relevant ICD-10 codes is as follows: I80.0 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of superficial vessels of lower extremities I80.1 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of femoral vein I80.2 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of lower extremities I80.3 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of lower extremities, unspecified I80.8 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other sites I80.9 Phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified site O22.2 Superficial thrombophlebitis in pregnancy O22.3 Deep phlebothrombosis in pregnancy O87.0 Superficial thrombophlebitis in the puerperium O87.1 Deep phlebothrombosis in the puerperium.

[6] Pulmonary embolisms are coded as I26.0 (Pulmonary embolism with mention of acute cor pulmonale) and I26.9 (Pulmonary embolism without mention of acute cor pulmonale).

[7] Assessing growth through time: HES figures are available from 1989-90 onwards. Changes to the figures over time need to be interpreted in the context of improvements in data quality and coverage (particularly in earlier years), improvements in coverage of independent sector activity (particularly from 2006-07) and changes in NHS practice. For example, apparent reductions in activity may be due to a number of procedures which may now be undertaken in out-patient settings and so no longer included in admitted patient HES data.

Source:

Hospital Episode Statistics (HES), The NHS Information Centre for health and social care.

The following table shows the total number of Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) bloodstream infections (bacteraemias) reported by English NHS acute trusts under the mandatory surveillance scheme, for each of the last five financial years. However, this number will include infections acquired outside of NHS facilities.

MRSA bacteraemia reports, all English NHS acute trusts

	Number
2005-06	7,096
2006-07	6,383
2007-08	4,451

MRSA bacteraemia reports, all English NHS acute trusts

	Number
2008-09	2,935
2009-10	1,898
Total	22,763

The following table shows the number of these MRSA bacteraemias apportioned to acute trusts for the two years that figures are available[1].

[1] By calculating the elapsed time between a patient's admission date and the reported specimen date, the data capture system now allows for indirect identification of cases that may have been acquired within the reporting trust. This became possible for CDI from April 2007, and for MRSA from April 2008.

MRSA bacteraemia reports, all English NHS acute trusts

	Number
2008-09	1,606
2009-10	1,003
Total	2,609

The following table shows the total number of Clostridium difficile infections reported by English NHS acute trusts under the mandatory surveillance scheme, in patients aged 65 years and over, for each of the last five financial years. This is broken down into those aged two years and over and two to 64 years for the three years that figures are available. However, this number will include infections acquired outside of NHS facilities.

Clostridium difficile infection reports, all English NHS acute trusts

	2005-06	2006-07	2007-08	2008-09	2009-10	Number Total
Patients aged 65+[1]	51,981	55,930	45,439	28,784	20,192	202,326
Patients aged 2 to 64	—	—	10,059	7,311	5,412	22,782
All patients aged 2+			55,498	36,095	25,604	117,197

[1] In April 2007, mandatory surveillance of CDI was expanded from just those aged over 65 to everyone two years and over.

The following table shows the number of these Clostridium difficile infections apportioned to acute trusts in all patients aged two years and over, for the three years that figures are available[1].

[1] By calculating the elapsed time between a patient's admission date and the reported specimen date, the data capture system now allows for indirect identification of cases that may have been acquired within the reporting trust. This became possible for CDI from April 2007, and for MRSA from April 2008.

Clostridium difficile infection reports, all English NHS acute trusts

	Number
2007-08	33,442
2008-09	19,927
2009-10	13,195
Total	66,564

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of treating in NHS facilities patients who have suffered a venous thromboembolism characterised by *(a)* phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of femoral vein, *(b)* phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of other deep vessels of lower extremities, *(c)* phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified lower extremities, *(d)* phlebitis and thrombophlebitis of unspecified site, *(e)* embolism and thrombosis of unspecified vein, *(f)* pulmonary embolism with mention of acute cor pulmonale and *(g)* pulmonary embolism without mention of acute cor pulmonale in each of the last five years. [19845]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not available in the format requested because the Department does not collect the cost to national health service providers of treating individual diagnoses.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Apprentices: Equality and Human Rights Commission

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many apprentices were in post at the Equality and Human Rights Commission on the latest date for which figures are available; and how many such apprentices recruited in the last 12 months *(a)* were previously apprentices, *(b)* had been long-term unemployed and *(c)* are graduates. [20270]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 28 October 2010]*: The Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) is an independent body. The following is based on information it has provided.

Three apprentices were in post at the EHRC at 27 October 2010.

Of the apprentices recruited in the last 12 months:

(a) None were previously apprentices;

(b) None were long-term unemployed; and

(c) None were graduates.

Departmental Equality

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what plans she has to publish equality impact assessments undertaken by the Government Equalities Office as part of the comprehensive spending review; and if she will make a statement. [18281]

Lynne Featherstone *[holding answer 20 October 2010]*: The Treasury has published an overview of the impact of the spending review on groups protected by equalities legislation. Full assessments of impact, where necessary, will be done when Departments develop and implement policies.

The majority of the Government Equalities Office's (GEOs) budget goes to the two bodies it currently sponsors, the Women's National Commission (WNC) and the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC). It has published an equality impact assessment on the closure of the WNC and will publish further material when developing and consulting on options for reforming the EHRC. All changes at the GEO itself will be carried out in accordance with its statutory equality duties.

TREASURY

Aggregates Levy: Northern Ireland

Ms Ritchie: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with the European Commission on the future of the Northern Ireland Aggregates Levy Credit Scheme. [21012]

Justine Greening: On behalf of HM Treasury, the Chancellor and officials held discussions with Commission representatives earlier this month and are working closely with the Commission to try to achieve the Government's objective of re-introducing the scheme at the earliest opportunity.

Aviation: Taxation

Henry Smith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future taxation of the aviation industry; and if he will make a statement. [19906]

Justine Greening: The Government confirmed at the June Budget that it would explore possible changes to the aviation tax system, including the option of switching from a per-passenger to a per-plane duty. Any major changes will be subject to public consultation.

Banks: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions he has had with UK banks on the size of their bonus pools for 2010-11. [20512]

Mr Hoban: As part of the work being undertaken to reform the financial services sector, the Government are taking action to tackle unacceptable bonuses throughout the banking sector.

The FSA has consulted on the revision of the Remuneration Code; and banks subject to the code have been invited to provide feedback. The revised rules will be in place by 1 January 2011 and will ensure bonuses are deferred over a number of years and are linked to the performance of the employee and their firm. In addition, significant portions of any bonus will be paid in shares or other securities.

Barclays: Burma

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent reports he has received of compliance by Barclays Bank with the provisions of EU financial sanctions on Burma; and if he will make a statement. [20837]

Mr Hoban: The Treasury has received no such reports.

Beer: Business

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will commission a fresh impact assessment of the operation of small breweries' relief. [20517]

Justine Greening: The Treasury keeps all tax reliefs under review, and is in regular contact with representatives of the brewing industry about a range of issues, including small breweries relief.

Child Benefit

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the *(a)* number of households in Warrington North constituency that will be affected by the proposed changes in child benefit and *(b)* proportion of those households which comprise (i) single parents and (ii) couples with only one wage earner. [17900]

Paul Uppal: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of people in Wolverhampton South West constituency who will be affected by his proposal to change the eligibility criteria for child benefit. [18000]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Child Benefit: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Carlisle constituency are in receipt of child benefit. [19350]

Mr Gauke: The information requested on the number of families receiving child benefit on Carlisle constituency can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/child benefit/chb-geog-aug09.pdf

This data is based on the August 2009 snapshot of all child benefit claims.

Child Tax Credit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households *(a)* in each Government Office region and *(b)* nationally that receive working tax credit childcare element of between 70 and 80 per cent. of their child tax credit payments. [19871]

Justine Greening: All families benefiting from the child care element will be affected by the change announced in the spending review.

The latest information on the number of households benefiting from the child care element, by region, is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics: Geographical Analyses", available at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-stats.htm

Child Trust Fund: Lewisham

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the cost to the public purse was of the provision of Child Trust Fund payments to the residents of Lewisham, Deptford constituency in each year since the scheme's inception; and how many such funds were established for children in the constituency in each such year. [21094]

Mr Hoban: Statistical information about Child Trust Funds is published on HM Revenue and Customs' website at

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/ctf/stats.htm

The latest Westminster constituency information published in autumn 2009, and in advance of the 2010 general election boundary changes, shows that 7,623 children born on or before 6 April 2008 in the Lewisham, Deptford constituency had a Child Trust Fund account.

All eligible children currently receive a payment from the government to open their Child Trust Fund account with children in low income families also getting an additional government payment. The total cost of Government payments to child trust funds is not available at constituency level.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many officials his Department has appointed on a fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010. [16791]

Justine Greening: The number of officials who have been appointed to HM Treasury on fixed-term contract since 7 May 2010 is 52.

Disabled Persons Tax Credit: Carlisle

John Stevenson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Carlisle constituency are in receipt of disabled persons' tax credit. [19351]

Mr Gauke: The number of families in Carlisle constituency benefiting from tax credits, with at least one disabled adult or child in the household is 240.

This information is based on snapshot data on the number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency. It is available in the HMRC snapshot publication "Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010". This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

Employment and Support Allowance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his estimates of the savings likely to accrue as a result of placing a time limit on the contributory employment and support allowance included assumptions on behavioural change. [19869]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

We have not included assumptions relating to behavioural change in the costing for the savings likely to accrue as a result of time-limiting contributory employment and support allowance for customers in the work related activity group.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when he expects the pilot scheme of fuel duty discount for rural areas to begin; what criteria his Department used to decide which communities would be involved in the pilot; for how long the pilot will run before consideration of extension of the scheme is extended to other areas; and which islands in Scotland he expects to qualify for the scheme when it is fully rolled out. [20750]

Justine Greening: The Government intend to introduce a pilot scheme that will deliver a maximum of 5p per litre duty discount on petrol and diesel in remote rural areas. The Government are currently considering the exact scope of the pilots and at present has announced their intention to include the Inner and Outer Hebrides, the Northern Isles, and the Isles of Scilly. The Government will report back to the House, in due course, prior to submitting a formal proposal on the scope and design of the scheme to the European Commission.

Export Credits Guarantee Department: Pakistan

Joan Walley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills the cancellation of debts owed by Pakistan to the Export Credits Guarantee Department. [19889]

Mr Hoban: Ministers regularly discuss a wide range of policy issues. The Government of Pakistan has not asked for debt relief and we do not consider debt relief to be the most effective way to support Pakistan at this time.

National Insurance: Exemptions

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he took of variations in levels of need in the North East when developing his proposals for national insurance exemptions for new businesses. [20096]

Mr Gauke: The employer National Insurance Contributions holiday for new businesses is intended to promote the formation of new businesses employing staff in those countries and regions most reliant on public sector employment. Almost 25% of workers in the North East are employed in the public sector making it one of the regions the Government decided should be covered by the scheme.

Within regions there will be areas with higher or lower levels of public sector employment but targeting smaller geographical areas would be costly and complex to administer and would not reflect that in practice labour markets generally extend more widely.

Office for Budget Responsibility: Finance

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer other than the budget announced in the autumn forecast, how much funding has been provided to support the activities of the Office for Budget Responsibility; and how much funding has been provided to resource the Budget Responsibility Committee. [19694]

Justine Greening: The Permanent Secretary to the Treasury has written to the Chair of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) to confirm the funding arrangements agreed with the OBR for the Spending Review period. The OBR is being given a multi-year settlement of £1.75 million per year (flat cash for the period). This settlement funds all of the OBR's activities.

Oil: Prices

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) when he expects to publish his response to the Office for Budget Responsibility's report on the effect of oil price fluctuations on the public finances; [20563]

(2) what his policy is on a fair fuel stabiliser. [20564]

Justine Greening: In the June Budget the Government asked the Office for Budget Responsibility to undertake an assessment of the effect of oil price fluctuations on the public finances. The Office of Budget Responsibility published its report on 14 September.

The Government are considering the Office for Budget Responsibility's assessment and will report back as part of the usual Budget process.

Public Expenditure

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of the proposals in the Comprehensive Spending Review on *(a)* the number of public sector jobs in County Durham and *(b)* the number of women employed in such jobs. [19989]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released, as part of its Budget forecasts on 22 June 2010, projections for whole economy

employment to 2015-16.

Further information on its employment forecast, including projections for general government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in its document 'OBR forecast: Employment', which can be found at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

A revised forecast will be released on 29 November 2010.

The OBR has not published forecasts by region or gender.

Mary Creagh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will publish his Department's regional impact assessment on the 2010 Spending Review. [20484]

Danny Alexander: It is for Departments to decide how to best prioritise resources within their departmental expenditure limits. The regional consequences will only become apparent once these decisions have been made. Government spending is determined by criteria that includes spatial aspects, but is dominated by deprivation and demand. Therefore the impact of the spending review is best measured by income distribution. This was included for the first time in the SR document, and can be found in Annex B of the document or online at

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr2010_impact_households.htm

However, the Treasury published what actions are being taken to encourage growth in each region, and how each region will benefit from schemes announced in the spending review, including capital investment programmes. This information is available online at

www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr2010_regions.htm

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer when the Government plans to implement his proposals to *(a)* reduce the number of Criminal Records Bureau checks for junior doctors, *(b)* distribute National Insurance numbers to people with a letter instead of a plastic card and *(c)* increase the selling of surplus and second-hand Government equipment by expanding the use of Ministry of Defence's e-Disposals service for use across all Government departments. [20817]

Danny Alexander: The proposals you outline above were all as a result of ideas received through the Government's spending challenge website and were announced as policy by the Chancellor on 10 September. The relevant Government Departments will now be taking forward the implementation and roll-out of these proposals. For example HMRC have already this October stopped issuing replacement national insurance cards and have said that from 2011 they will be issuing all national insurance numbers to people by letter rather than providing a plastic card, saving the Government up to £1 million a year in upfront costs.

Mr Bain: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the implementation costs of *(a)* reducing the number of Criminal Records Bureau checks for junior doctors, *(b)* distributing national insurance numbers to people with a letter instead of a plastic card and *(c)* increasing the selling of surplus and second-hand government equipment by expanding the use of the Ministry of Defence's eDisposals service for use across all Government departments. [20818]

Danny Alexander: The proposals you outline above were all as a result of ideas received through the Government's spending challenge website and were announced as policy by the Chancellor on 10 September. Cost benefit analysis to ensure that implementing these policies represented good value for money was undertaken by the relevant Departments for all these ideas before they were announced.

Public Sector: North West

Helen Jones: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the change in the number of public sector jobs in *(a)* Warrington and *(b)* the North West in each of the next five years. [21168]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released, as part of its Budget forecasts on 22 June 2010, projections for whole economy employment to 2015-16.

Further information on its employment forecast, including projections for general government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in its document "OBR forecast: Employment", which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

A revised forecast will be released on 29 November 2010.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Public Sector: Pay

Mr Laws: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the proportion of public sector workers earning less than £21,000 per year who will receive a pay rise of at least £250 in *(a)* 2011-12 and (b) 2012-13; and if he will make a statement. [20094]

Danny Alexander: The Budget announced a two-year pay freeze from 2011-12 for public sector work forces, except for those earning the full-time equivalent of £21,000 or less, who will receive an increase of at least £250 per year. Approximately 1.7 million public sector workers (excluding the devolved Administrations and public corporations), earn £21,000 or less.

For those areas where pay is not set centrally, it will be up to individual employers to determine their own pay policy. Therefore, while the Government will expect similar restraint in these areas, it is not possible to state with certainty the proportion of those public sector workers earning £21,000 or less who will receive £250.

Public Sector: Richmond Park

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the effect on the number of public sector jobs in Richmond Park constituency of the reductions in departmental spending announced in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [20565]

Danny Alexander: The Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) released, as part of its Budget forecasts on 22 June 2010, projections for whole economy

employment to 2015-16.

Further information on its employment forecast, including projections for general Government employment, was released on 30 June 2010 in its document 'OBR forecast: Employment', which can be found on the following webpage:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/publications.html

A revised forecast will be released on 29 November 2010.

The OBR has not published forecasts on a sub-national level.

Research and Development Tax Credit

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of research and development credits in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13, *(c)* 2013-14 and *(d)* 2014-15. [20765]

Justine Greening: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), and I have asked the OBR to reply.

Letter from Robert Chote, dated 1 November 2010:

As Chair of the Budget Responsibility Committee of the Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR), I have been asked to reply to your recent question:

To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer, what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of research and development credits in (a) 2011-12, (b) 2012-13, (c) 2013-14 and (d) 2014-15. 20765

The interim OBR's June 2010 Budget forecast incorporated a forecast for research and development credits. Research and development tax credits are included in the corporation tax credits line in Table C11 (p100) in the June Budget. The element of R&D tax credits which are paid out to firms with no tax liability are treated as AME expenditure and included in the tax credits line in Table C13 (p102) in the June Budget.

Following your request for supplementary information on its forecasts, the Office for Budget Responsibility will release the specific information on R&D tax credits on 18 November 2010, at 11am. This information will be published on the OBR website, and copies of all published material will be made available to Parliament. This is in accordance with our publication procedure, which is available on our website at:

http://budgetresponsibility.independent.gov.uk/d/release_policy.pdf

Working Tax Credit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from his proposed changes to the working hours requirement for the working tax credit includes assumptions on behavioural changes. [19842]

Justine Greening: The estimate of the level of savings which will accrue from his proposed changes to the working hour's requirement for couples with children does not include behavioural assumptions.

The policy costings for the Spending Review do not generally include indirect behavioural effects. If the Office for Budget Responsibility judges them to be significant they will be captured in their autumn 2010 economic forecast.

Written Answers to Questions

Tuesday 2 November 2010

SCOTLAND

West Dunbartonshire Council: Local Government Finance

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what recent discussions he has had with ministerial colleagues on the likely effects on West Dunbartonshire local authority area of the implementation of the proposals in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [21335]

Michael Moore: I have had many discussions with ministerial colleagues on a range of issues, including the effects of the spending review in Scotland. The spending review sets out how the Government will carry out Britain's unavoidable deficit reduction plan, and builds on the foundations for sustainable, balanced, private sector-led recovery set out in the Chancellor's June Budget. Alongside growth, the Government have prioritised fairness, including reforming the welfare system to put it on a sustainable long-term footing, while providing sustained routes out of poverty for the poorest. Scotland and its regions will stand to benefit from these priorities.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission

Mr Love: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he has had recent discussions with Audit Commission staff on proposals for a mutual model for the Audit Commission. [21030]

Robert Neill: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave him on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 86-87W. Mutualisation is one of a number of options for moving the Commission's in-house audit practice into the private sector that are currently being considered. I shall shortly be meeting the Chairman and the Chief Executive of the Audit Commission.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company: Contracts

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Gloucester of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 504W, on fire services, what contractual *(a)* obligations and *(b)* milestones in respect of the FiReControl project EADS has not delivered (i) on time and (ii) on budget. [21337]

Robert Neill: The FiReControl project has been subject to repeated delays, missed milestones and failed obligations. In particular, the two main areas where EADS has not met its obligations under the Project Agreement are:

The time for delivery of the project; and

Building the system in accordance with the project agreement, especially compliance with the requirements and solution.

In November 2008 the previous Government had to announce a substantial delay—of nine months—and less than eight months later, in July 2009, a further delay of ten months.

I have made it clear that I now require this project to be delivered to time, cost and quality, and so we have activated a key milestone in our contract with EADS for the main IT system to be delivered in three control centres by mid-2011. This is in line with the July 2009 statement to the House and EADS's assurances given to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee in February this year.

While EADS is contracted to deliver the FiReControl system to a fixed price—and must deliver within this—every delay increases all DCLG's running costs associated with the project, including staffing and maintenance of buildings.

Our aim is to give operational certainty for the fire and rescue service and financial certainty for the taxpayer. We are not going to provide additional public funding to bail out this contract.

Faithwise Ltd: Contracts

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who authorised the establishment of his Department's contractual arrangements with Faithwise Ltd. [20114]

Robert Neill: The Department's contract with Faithwise was authorised by Jane Everton of the Preventing Extremism Unit.

Fire Services

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to publish the report of his Department's strategic review of the Fire and Rescue Service. [21284]

Robert Neill: The Fire Futures strategic review of the Fire and Rescue Service is a sector led project on fire and rescue provision in England.

The report will be presented to me by the sector in the autumn and a copy published on the departmental website shortly after. A copy will also be made available for the Library of the House.

Fire Services: North East

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he expects to make a decision on proposals to develop or redevelop 17 community fire stations and other facilities submitted by fire authorities in the North East under the private finance initiative. [21115]

Robert Neill: The Department's position on its PFI projects in procurement—including the North East fire authorities project—will be considered and confirmed as quickly as possible following the Spending Review 2010. We would expect to reach decisions by December.

As set out in the Spending Review framework, published on 8 June 2010, we will evaluate spending programmes against tough criteria on ensuring value for money. We will also assess projects on a case-by-case basis for value for money and against other departmental priorities.

Housing: Construction

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* affordable and *(b)* social homes likely to be built in Hull in the next four years. [20673]

Andrew Stunell: The Department does not forecast levels of future house building and delivery will be determined by local housing plans.

The latest information on affordable housing completions in England for 2009-10 was published by the Department on 28 October.

http://www.communities.gov.uk/publications/corporate/statistics/affordablehousing200910

Live Tables 1006, 1007 and 1008 provide information on the supply of affordable homes located within individual local authorities.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what capital funding his Department has allocated to constructing social housing in Tower Hamlets for *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [20885]

Grant Shapps: The following table shows forecast spend on existing commitments for social housing schemes in Tower Hamlets through the Homes and Communities Agency's National Affordable Housing Programme and local authority new build for the years 2010-11 to 2012-13.

Social rent	*£ million*
2010-11	59.6
2011-12	50.3
2012-13	26.8

We announced in the spending review almost £4.5 billion investment, including existing commitments, for new affordable housing which through a new delivery model is expected to deliver up to 155,000 new affordable homes over this spending review period. We will publish details of how these proposals will work shortly. A further £2 billion will be provided for the Decent Homes programme.

Housing: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what proportion of housing in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency is *(a)* social and *(b)* private sector (i) owner occupied, (ii) shared ownership and (iii) rented housing. [21056]

Andrew Stunell: Statistics on dwelling stock are not collected at constituency level. Local authority level figures are published in Housing Statistics live table 100 at the Department for Communities and Local Government website at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/stockincludingvacants/livetables/

The figures show stock by private, registered social landlords and local authority tenures. Estimates are not available which separate the privately owned stock into that which is rented and owner occupied.

Ironbridge Gorge

David Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government, how much funding he has allocated for land instability works in the Ironbridge Gorge. [21227]

Robert Neill: The long term strategy for addressing the land instability issues in Ironbridge Gorge and related funding is being considered following the outcome of the Spending Review published on 20 October.

Local Government: Contracts

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of the guidance his Department issues to local authorities on tendering for contracts with small and medium-sized enterprises; and if he will make a statement. [20744]

Robert Neill: Subject to their legal duties, including the duty of best value and public procurement law local authorities are responsible for taking their own procurement decisions. The Department has not issued general guidance to local authorities on tendering with small and medium-sized enterprises.

The Government announced on 1 November plans to help small and medium-sized businesses to flourish and to encourage entrepreneurs. The Prime Minister has also appointed Lord Young as an Enterprise Adviser to write a report on what more Government can do to help smaller enterprises and start-ups to prosper.

As part of the Government's commitment to increasing transparency and openness, all councils have been called on to publish invitations to tender and final contracts on projects over £500 by the start of 2011.

The Local Government Association Group (LGAG), through its 'Place Based Productivity' programme, is looking at a range of productivity topics, including procurement. This sector-led programme aims to identify best practice and new and innovative ways to support local government and its partners in finding greater efficiencies. For further details see:

http://www.local.gov.uk/lgv2/aio/678644

Local Government: Expenditure

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the cost to local authorities of publishing each item of expenditure of £500 and above and responding to enquiries arising from such publication in 2011-12. [19572]

Robert Neill: Local authorities that are already publishing items of expenditure of £500 and above suggest there is no additional cost. Rather than creating a new financial burden additional transparency should help reduce wasteful expenditure, which is why local authorities have been asked to publish such information, for example, research by Experian has highlighted that local authorities spend £150 million a year on duplicate payments, which the process of transparency will help avoid. Any formal requirement to publish this information will be accompanied by an impact assessment.

Local Strategic Partnerships

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what his policy is on the future of local strategic partnerships; and if he will make a statement. [19571]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 14 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 1030W.

Mitie Contract

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will place in the Library a copy of his Department's cleaning contract with Mitie. [20113]

Robert Neill: The documents requested have been deposited in the Library of the House.

Mobile Homes

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department plans to require owners of park homes to register their properties with the Land Registry. [21409]

Grant Shapps: There are no plans to require owners of park homes to register their homes with the Land Registry. A park home is a moveable chattel, stationed with the permission of the site owner. There is no estate or interest in the pitch. There is therefore nothing to register with the Land Registry.

Stephen Gilbert: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many park home sites there are in each constituency. [21410]

Grant Shapps: This information is not held centrally.

Promotional Gifts

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many and what promotional gift products were purchased by his Department from *(a)* The Purple Company (UK) and *(b)* Giftpoint in each of the last three financial years; and at what total cost to his Department in each case. [20103]

Robert Neill: The Department has made no purchases from *(a)* The Purple Company (UK) and *(b)* Giftpoint in the last three years.

Revenue Support Grant

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether he proposes that unringfenced grants to be included in Revenue Support Grant are to be additional to or included in floor damping arrangements; [20776]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of local authorities which will receive no revenue support grant in 2011-12 owing to grant reductions and changes in responsibility for funding concessionary fares. [20777]

Robert Neill: We will announce our proposals for the distribution of formula grant to the House in due course.

Social Rented Housing

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assessment has been made of the likely effects on incentives to gain employment of reviewing social tenancies when tenants' circumstances change. [20465]

Andrew Stunell: In 2008-09 only 49% of social rented tenants of working age were in work. We need to take action to address the high levels of worklessness in the social rented sector.

We have rightly opened a wide debate about how we can create a social housing system which will provide stability where it is needed; provide more choice for tenants and prospective tenants; protect vulnerable households; and help get people into long-term employment.

We have recently pledged to introduce a national social home swap programme to make it easier for social tenants to move to another home or another part of the country, increasing their opportunities to find work.

We also plan to make it easier for social tenants to work from home and start up home businesses.

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many instances of squatting were recorded in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009. [20910]

Andrew Stunell: This information is not held centrally.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Pay

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate her Department has made of the number of *(a)* farm employees being paid wages below Agricultural Wages Board rates and *(b)* farm employers paying wages below such rates. [20742]

Mr Paice: The information is as follows:

(a) In 2009, there were approximately 26,000 workers over the age of 21 (21% of non-salaried workers) who were recorded as being paid at lower rates than the minimums for their grade.

It is important to note that these earnings figures may include data for workers who are not covered by the Agricultural Wages Order. For example, this could be family workers who benefit from the profits of the business or apprentices. It could also include first year apprentices for whom the order supplies additional and lower minimum rates or trainees working as part of an approved agricultural training course. The analysis excludes those aged 21 and under to minimise these effects.

Therefore the proportion of workers apparently paid below the agricultural minimum wage rate might be overstated to the extent that the data will include some workers who are not protected by agricultural minimum wage rates or for whom there is a lower minimum rate.

Number of workers[1] by AWB grade in England and Wales paid below the AWB rate for their grade (2009)

Grade	*Number of workers*	*Percentage of workers at that grade*
1	1,881	11
2	14,946	25
3	3,260	34
4	6,245	29
5	1,789	18
6	735	19
All grades	25,691	21

Notes:

1. Only includes workers aged 22 and above.
2. June survey information is based on data captured for 1 June 2009, whereas the Earnings and Hours Survey information is based on four quarterly surveys from January 2009, March 2009, June 2009 and September 2009 for the respective year.
3. These figures are based on a sample survey and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling error.

Source:

June Survey of Agriculture and Horticulture and DEFRA survey of Earning and Hours.

(b) We do not have an accurate estimate for the number of employers in England and Wales who were found to have paid workers below the agricultural minimum wage rate for their grade.

Mr Bain: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many agricultural employers were found to have paid workers below rates set by the Agricultural Wages Board in each of the last five years. [20743]

Mr Paice: We do not have an accurate estimate for the number of employers in England and Wales who were found to have paid workers below the agricultural minimum wage rate for their grade.

Animal Welfare: Litter

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what recent representations her Department has received on stomach complaints in animals following the ingestion of wire from used sky lanterns; [21007]

(2) if she will estimate the number of occasions on which sky lanterns have damaged *(a)* livestock and *(b)* crops in each of the last 12 months. [21032]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* We have received no representations specifically on stomach complaints in animals following the ingestion of wire from used sky lanterns. However, we have received anecdotal evidence of damage caused by Chinese lanterns to livestock and crops. As this is insufficient to make any formal estimates of the damage incurred, we have met with the farming unions and others in order to begin to build an evidence base of the problems caused.

DEFRA and the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills (BIS) are aware of concerns about the damage caused by Chinese lanterns and are looking into necessary actions to reduce the risks posed. BIS will also be working with local authority trading standards to encourage importers to improve the safety of these products and to make them fully biodegradable.

Bees

Tristram Hunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of the risks to the beekeeping industry of the agricultural use of neonicotinoid pesticides. [19576]

Mr Paice: The UK pesticides regulatory body—the Health and Safety Executive's Chemicals Regulation Directorate (CRD)—has liaised with other EU regulatory authorities that have imposed restrictions on the use of these pesticides. It also reviews developments on how risks to bee health from the use of pesticides are assessed and monitored. CRD scientists attended the 10th International Symposium of the International Commission for Plant-Bee Relationships (ICPBR) on Hazards of Pesticides to Bees, in October 2008; no new scientific evidence was presented at this meeting, or more recently, to suggest a need for changes to current UK pesticide authorisations.

Ministers have also considered scientific advice, including views of the independent Advisory Committee on Pesticides, on a report issued last year by a number of environmental organisations—the Buglife report 'The impact of neonicotinoid insecticides on bumblebees, honeybees and other non-target invertebrates (2009)'. The conclusion was that this report highlighted a need for data on the impacts of pesticides on overwintering of bees in the pesticides risk assessment process. This is an area where regulatory science has developed recently and which is being addressed by changes to the EU regulatory system. On the basis of current evidence there is no justification for making changes to data requirements in advance of these changes.

CRD would act on any substantive evidence should incidents occur in the UK and will continue to monitor research and developments in other EU member states and elsewhere to see if they are relevant to the UK.

Climate Change: Forests

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps she plans to take in response to the recommendations of the Read report on 'Combating climate change: a role for UK forests'. [19823]

Mr Paice: The Woodland Carbon Task Force (lead by the Forestry Commission) is establishing conditions for a step-change in woodland creation and an increase in sustainable forest management, to increase the harvesting and use of wood. The task force is exploring how carbon finance and future wood fuel and timber income make woodland creation and management an economically viable proposition. The task force will also encourage local initiatives for woodland creation and work with a range of interested parties to identify barriers to woodland creation and management.

The Forestry Commission has initiated a pilot phase for the Woodland Carbon Code that sets out robust requirements for voluntary carbon sequestration projects that incorporate core principles of good carbon management as part of modern sustainable forest management.

The Read report identified that adaptation is needed now; the Forestry Commission has recently published guidance on adaptation in England. This, and forthcoming climate change guidelines that will underpin the UK Forestry Standard will, for the first time, establish the consideration of climate change adaptation as a requirement of sustainable forest management in the UK.

The role of trees in helping society to adapt is also important, and we have indicated that we will launch a tree planting campaign later in the year, addressing the report's recommendation that tree planting should be targeted to where people live and congregate.

Fisheries

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs for what reasons the Marine Management Organisation requires fishermen operating vessels of under 10 metres to maintain log books. [21116]

Richard Benyon: The MMO has decided to introduce a requirement for the masters of under 10 metre fishing vessels fishing, in either ICES Areas IVc and VIId or ICES Areas VIId and VIIe in the same fishing trip, to complete and submit an EU logbook.

This new monitoring requirement is intended to provide greater assurance over the accuracy of catch information for fish stocks in those areas, following concerns that have been expressed over the potential misdeclaration of area of catch. The majority of fishermen operating in those areas, who do not fish in more than one area in a single trip, will as now not have to complete logbooks. On the other hand, a number of fishermen who are likely to be caught by the new requirement will already be completing logbooks because they lease fish.

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what requirements fishermen in the under 10 metre fleet had to complete log books in the last 30 years. [21119]

Richard Benyon: There is no requirement in EU law for the masters of under 10 metre vessels to complete logbooks, but member states may require the masters of vessels flying their flag to do so where they consider it appropriate for management purposes.

In the United Kingdom there has been no such general obligation. However, masters of under 10 metre vessels who lease quota are required to complete an EU logbook. In addition, those catching nephrops have been required to complete a weekly catch return (NEP 1) since 2001, and those with a shellfish entitlement have since 2005 had to complete, and submit, a monthly return containing details of their catches of crabs and lobsters.

Flood Control

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress she has made on implementing in Hull the recommendations of the Pitt review of lessons learned from the 2007 floods. [21194]

Richard Benyon: The Environment Agency, the local authority and Yorkshire Water have worked together to review how surface water flooding is managed in the city, and the local authority has produced a Surface Water Management Plan. The Environment Agency is working with partners to share information and develop a more co-ordinated approach to flood risk. The Environment Agency also invests in the maintenance of flood defences such as the Hull tidal barrier and the East Hull pumping station.

Work is ongoing to raise awareness among the local community about flood risk. The Environment Agency's Floodline Warnings Direct system covers 8,896 properties at risk of tidal or river flooding in and around Hull, and partnership work is under way to help the most vulnerable communities to become more resilient to flooding. The Extreme Rainfall Alert service will help predict surface water flooding in the city.

In 2011, the local authority will have the opportunity to test its incident response as part of Exercise Watermark.

Flood Control: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much funding she expects to provide to *(a)* Gloucestershire County Council and *(b)* Tewksbury Borough Council for flood defences in each of the next five years; and if she will make a statement. [20756]

Richard Benyon *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* Local authorities' responsibilities under the Flood and Water Management Act will be fully funded by DEFRA, primarily through area-based grant, but it is too early to say what this means for expenditure in individual local authority areas. Local authorities will continue to be funded through formula grant from the Department of Communities and Local Government, and with capital grants from the Environment Agency. In addition, DEFRA will be fully funding new burdens under the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, primarily through area-based grant provided directly to each lead local flood authority. Formula grant and area-based grant will be provided unringfenced, to give local authorities the flexibility they need to meet their priorities.

Forestry

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether her Department plans to mark the International Year of Forests in 2011. [20722]

Mr Paice: The International Year of Forests (IYF) provides an opportunity to raise awareness of the importance of the world's forests. The Government are committed to tackling deforestation, which contributes to climate change, biodiversity loss and poverty. Internationally, the IYF will provide an opportunity to highlight our achievements in this area, including action to ban the placing of illegally harvested timber on the UK market, and to raise the profile of forest issues worldwide. Here in the UK, the Forestry Commission is planning various initiatives and events to mark the IYF.

Forestry Commission

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she plans to require *(a)* successor bodies to the Forestry Commission and *(b)* owners of former Forestry Commission sites to fulfil the Commission's undertaking to restore planted ancient woodland sites with native broadleaf species. [20863]

Mr Paice: In my letter to all Members of Parliament on 29 October I outlined the Government's plans for the Public Forest Estate in England. The Forestry Commission continues to play an important role in protecting and expanding the trees, woods and forests in England. There will be a new approach to ownership and management of woodlands and forests, with a reducing role for the state and a bigger role for individuals, businesses, civil society organisations and local authorities in a managed programme of reform in which the Forestry Commission will play a crucial role.

The protection of our most valuable and biodiverse forests will not be compromised. Full measures will remain in place to preserve the public benefits of woods and forests under any new ownership arrangements. DEFRA and the Forestry Commission will consult on the proposals and will invite views from a wide range of potential private and civil society partners on a number of new ownership options and the means to secure public benefits, including the restoration of planted ancient woodland sites.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether an environmental impact assessment has been undertaken of the Government's proposals to sell or lease part of the Forestry Commission estate. [20865]

Mr Paice: An impact assessment, along with an Equality Impact Assessment, will be published as part of the consultation on proposals for the Public Forest Estate in England.

Forestry Commission: Manpower

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how many people were employed by the Forestry Commission at the latest date for which figures are available. [20908]

Mr Paice: At the end of September the Forestry Commission, as a non-ministerial Department for England, Scotland and Wales, employed 3,454 people, in both full and part-time positions.

Forests

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Forestry Commission on sales from the public forest estate. [20778]

Mr Paice: The Forestry Commission is a non-ministerial Government Department that reports to the DEFRA Secretary of State; The Forestry Commission has been closely involved in discussions on the new approach to ownership and management of woodlands and forests.

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what plans she has for the sale of the public forest estate in *(a)* the Forest of Dean, *(b)* the New Forest and *(c)* Sherwood Forest; [20779]

(2) what plans she has for sales from the Public Forest Estate; [20780]

(3) how many hectares of the Public Forest Estate the Forestry Commission plans to sell. [20781]

Mr Paice: DEFRA and the Forestry Commission will consult the public on proposals regarding the Public Forest Estate. We will invite views from a wide range of potential private and civil society partners on a number of new ownership options while protecting public benefits. I envisage a managed programme of reform to further develop a competitive, thriving and resilient forestry sector that includes many sustainably managed woods operating as parts of viable land-based businesses. No decisions have been made in relation to any individual sites.

Poultry: Animal Welfare

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent estimate she has made of the cost to the egg production industry of meeting the requirements of Council Directive 1999/74/EC on minimum standards of welfare for laying hens. [20557]

Mr Paice: The estimated cost to the egg production industry of Council Directive 1999/74 is based on two key operational requirements placed on the poultry egg industry in 2012: the banning of conventional cages from 2012 and the introduction of stricter stocking density requirements for free-range and barn egg producers.

The total cost to the industry over a 25 year period from 2009 is estimated to be £176 million, of which capital costs are estimated to be £102.8 million and production costs are estimated to be £72.9 million.

These estimates are based on British Egg Industry Council analysis, DEFRA commissioned ADAS research and subsequent discussions with industry in 2009.

Glyn Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the merits of taking steps to ensure that eggs not meeting the requirements consequent on the implementation of the proposed EU prohibition on conventional cages are not imported. [20558]

Mr Paice: I recently wrote to the Commission about my concerns about possible non-compliance with the EU-wide ban on eggs and egg products produced from hens housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012 and requested it begins work on a practical enforcement solution to help manage the transition across Europe. This might be through the introduction of an intra-community ban on the trade in eggs produced by hens still housed in conventional cages after 1 January 2012. In practice this would mean that such eggs may only be sold in the member state of production for a limited period only. This will help protect compliant producers and ensure that they are not disadvantaged if there is any delay to the ban, or other member states do not meet the 2012 deadline.

Trees

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the number of trees planted with Government funding since 6 May 2010. [20909]

Mr Paice: We have not yet made an estimate of trees planted since 6 May 2010 as the normal planting season runs from November to March.

PRIME MINISTER

BP: Libya

Robert Halfon: To ask the Prime Minister pursuant to his answer of 6 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 2W, what timetable has been set for the Cabinet Secretary to review papers on whether his predecessor and his predecessor's officials met BP and the government of Libya on oil drilling off the coast of Libya between July 2007 and March 2008; and whether he plans to publish the Cabinet Secretary's conclusions. [20828]

The Prime Minister: The Cabinet Secretary expects to conclude his work shortly. Dependent upon the outcome, this may include publishing additional relevant papers.

Public Expenditure

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Prime Minister (1) what definition of the UK's national interest the Government used in the *(a)* National Security Strategy, *(b)* Strategic Defence and Security Review and *(c)* Comprehensive Spending Review; and what the component elements were of the national interest as so defined; [20492]

(2) what criteria he plans to use to assess the effectiveness of the *(a)* National Security Strategy, *(b)* Strategic Defence and Security Review and *(c)* Comprehensive Spending Review in promoting the UK's national interest. [20493]

The Prime Minister: I refer the hon. Member to section 2.12 of the National Security Strategy.

A Strong Britain in an Age of Uncertainty: The National Security Strategy (Cm 7953)

2.12: Our security, prosperity and freedom are interconnected and mutually supportive. They constitute our national interest.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Questions

Helen Jones: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many questions have been *(a)* rejected and *(b)* carded by the House of Commons Table Office since September 2010, broken down by political party. [21164]

Fiona Mactaggart: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many notices of questions for oral answer submitted for inclusion in the shuffle on 25 October 2010 were not included in the shuffle; and how many such questions were submitted by members of the Official Opposition party. [20391]

Sir Stuart Bell: During the period between 1 September 2010 and 27 October 2010, 7,428 questions for written answer were tabled and printed; 4,564 questions for oral answer were entered into the shuffle (a process dependent upon automated random number generation to determine which questions appear on the Order Paper and in what order); of these oral questions, 1,534 were topical questions.

The Table Office can only put on to the Order Paper or into the shuffle questions which comply with the rules of the House. If a question appears to be disorderly the Member is sent a card and asked to discuss how it might be brought within the rules. Questions are not rejected and there is an appeal mechanism for Members dissatisfied with the advice they receive.

The available data are set out in the following tables:

Table 1: Questions for oral answer (other than topical questions), 1 September 2010 to 27 October 2010

	Conservative	*Labour*	*Liberal Democrat*	*Other*	*Total*
Number of questions entered in 'the shuffle' by party	1,729	1,033	204	64	3,030
Proportion by party of total number of questions entered in 'the shuffle' (percentage	57	34	7	2	100
Number of questions printed by party (percentage)	313	170	35	7	525
Proportion by party of total number of questions printed (percentage)	60	32	7	1	100
Number of questions 'carded' by party	240	171	27	8	446
Proportion by party of total number of questions 'carded' (percentage)	54	38	6	2	100

Table 2: Questions for written answer, 1 September 2010 to 27 October 2010

	Conservative	*Labour*	*Liberal Democrat*	*Other*	*Total*
Number of questions tabled and printed by party	3,1[illegible]8	3,177	594	509	7,428
Proportion by party of total number of questions tabled and printed (percentage)	42	43	8	7	100
Number of questions 'carded' by party	760	920	106	99	1,885
Proportion by party of total number of questions 'carded' (percentage)	40	49	6	5	100

On 25 October 2010 the Table Office performed three shuffles; one for questions to the Secretary of State for Transport, one for questions to the Minister for Women and Equality and a third to determine the hon. Members to be called to put a topical oral question to the Secretary of State for Transport.

Shuffle	*No. of questions received before the cut-off*	*No. of questions carded*	*No. of carded questions later amended and put into shuffle*	*No. of questions shuffled*	*No. of questions received but not in shuffle*	*No. of questions received from Members of the official Opposition but not in shuffle*
Women and Equality	92	33	15	73	18	17
Transport (substantive)	139	15	15	138	0	0
Transport (topical)	119	0	n/a	119	0	0
Totals	350	48	30	330	18	17

Personal Safety Seminars: Expenditure

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what estimate he has made of the cost of running the three seminars on personal safety on 26 October, 2 November and 30 November; and for what reasons such expenditure was incurred. [21105]

Sir Stuart Bell: The cost of the Members' Personal Safety Seminar on Tuesday 26 October 2010 was £78.50; this covered the cost of the refreshments that were provided. It is not possible to project the costs for the next two seminars as we are awaiting confirmed attendance figures.

Tour Guides: Training

Mr Knight: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission what the cost of running training courses for tour guides for the Houses of Parliament was in the latest period for which figures are available. [21104]

Sir Stuart Bell: Following a detailed review of all aspects of visitor management at Parliament, an enhanced training and accreditation programme has been introduced as part of a package of measures designed to regularise and professionalise all aspects of guiding at Parliament. The programme provides refresher training for Parliament's pool of in-house guides, including updates on developments in both Houses, and training in the mechanics of guiding and managing groups. In order to recognise the expertise of the guides, on successful completion of the course guides will receive an accreditation from the Institute of Tourist Guiding.

The cost of the training programme will depend on the final number of participants, but were all of the 80 guides currently registered on the in-house guide list to undertake the training, it would cost a maximum of £34,186. These are gross costs. The costs are shared between the Commons and the Lords on a 70:30 basis, so the cost to the House of Commons would be £23,930. The costs will be met from within the existing departmental budget. Once the initial round of training is complete, future annual costs are estimated to be £4,710.

DEFENCE

Civil Service Redeployment Pool

Naomi Long: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Ministry of Defence (1) staff based in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland have been redeployed from the Civil Service redeployment pool in each of the last six months; [20154]

(2) how many Ministry of Defence staff based in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland currently in the Civil Service redeployment pool have been in that position for more than six months; [20155]

(3) how many Ministry of Defence staff based in *(a)* the UK and *(b)* Northern Ireland are currently in the Civil Service redeployment pool. [20156]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) manages its surplus staff by using the Redeployment Pool (RDP). This service enables those who are or who will become surplus to be given priority consideration for vacancies. Staff in the RDP usually continue working in their last Directorate or are redeployed to cover short-term tasks. On average, staff spend six months in the RDP before finding a post or leaving the Department. The RDP is also used by staff returning from overseas postings, including civilians supporting the Armed Services in Operational Theatres. The MOD is currently subject to a freeze on external recruitment and the RDP helps us to fill vacancies from within existing staff resources.

Data on the RDP is collected on a quarterly basis by Defence Analytical Services and Advice. The latest available data is as at 1 July 2010 and shows that on that date the numbers of staff in the RDP were:

Government Office Region	*July 2010*
Other UK	1,105
Northern Ireland	75

As at 1 July, the numbers of Civil Servants who had been in the RDP for more than six months were:

Government Office Region	*July 2010*
Other UK	215
Northern Ireland	5

The following table shows the number of staff who left the RDP in the six months prior to July 2010 in headcount terms, broken down into Northern Ireland and remaining areas of the UK with a monthly profile indicating whether they exited the RDP to another post within the MOD, or left the MOD as a whole.

	Date of flow					
	January 2010	*February 2010*	*March 2010*	*April 2010*	*May 2010*	*June 2010*
Government Office Region						
Other UK	75	160	315	185	145	200
Remained in MOD on leaving RDP	55	145	205	165	130	180
Exited MOD on leaving RDP	25	15	110	20	15	20
Northern Ireland	—	5	5	—	—	—
Remained in MOD on leaving RDP	—	—	5	5	—	—
Exited MOD on leaving RDP	—	—	—	—	—	—

[1]. Denotes figures less than five.

Notes:

1. Totals exclude 75 personnel based in overseas posts or whose location is unrecorded.
2. Totals have been individually rounded to the nearest five, and may not sum precisely to overall totals.
3. Data are based on redeployment pool strengths as taken from the MOD Human Resources Management System (HRMS) on the first working day of each month.

Armed Forces

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure he expects his Department to incur on the Armed Forces Covenant Task Force in the first 12 months of its operation. [19537]

Mr Robathan: The Armed Forces Covenant Task Force was set up for a short period of time, starting in July 2010, under the direction of the Cabinet Office.

Two Ministry of Defence Civil Servants were seconded to the taskforce. Other than some small items incurred on travel and subsistence while undertaking focus groups, there was no additional expenditure associated with this work.

Armed Forces: Accommodation

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the different approach is that he intends to take on the provision of armed forces accommodation; and if he will make a statement. [19652]

Mr Robathan: We are undertaking a detailed review of our approach to accommodation as part of the work in developing the new employment model.

Consideration will be given to a number of options, with the intention of providing a range of flexible options to service personnel and their families.

Armed Forces: Anniversaries

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what instructions his Department has issued to Royal Navy vessels on the celebration of Trafalgar Day. [20122]

Peter Luff: No instructions were issued by Navy Command Head Quarters for the celebration of Trafalgar Day.

Armed Forces: Closures

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which regional brigade headquarters he plans to close following the recommendations of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [20414]

Nick Harvey: As stated in the White Paper on the Strategic Defence and Security Review, the Army will significantly reduce its non-deployable administrative structure in order to enhance its focus on front-line capabilities. The current four regional divisional headquarters will be replaced with a single UK Support Command and at least two regional brigade headquarters will close.

A project team has been established to examine and rationalise the Army's non-deployable regional administrative structure. This team will continue the detailed work of identifying which regional brigade headquarters may close.

Armed Forces: Conditions of Employment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what mechanism he plans to use to make the career structure, pay and allowances and accommodation of the armed forces *(a)* simpler to administer, *(b)* more cost effective, *(c)* provide greater choice and *(d)* encourage greater personal responsibility. [19640]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence will take forward this work in the armed forces new employment model (NEM). The NEM is currently in the concept development phase and we are examining how we might adjust terms and conditions of service in order to balance the expectations of service personnel with the demands placed upon them. The aim is to promote greater stability in service life while continuing to compensate for mobility.

Armed Forces: Higher Education

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will estimate the likely cost to the public purse of funding university education for ex-service personnel in each of the next five years. [19654]

Mr Willetts: I have been asked to reply.

No decisions have yet been taken about the level of funding over the next five years of the scheme to fund university education for service leavers.

We have agreed to co-fund the scheme in 2009-10 and 2010-11 and we are planning to contribute to an enhanced scheme in the future.

Armed Forces: Tower Hamlets

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of serving members of the armed forces who *(a)* are normally resident in and *(b)* were born in Bethnal Green and Bow constituency. [20881]

Mr Robathan: Residential address information for serving personnel is not held with reference to parliamentary constituency and there are questions over the accuracy and completeness of what is held, as the information is maintained by the individual service person. Birth address in not recorded on the Joint Personnel Administration system.

Armoured Fighting Vehicles

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what savings he expects to accrue to his Department from a reduction in Challenger 2 capability of 40 per cent; [19548]

(2) what savings he expects to accrue to his Department as a result of reducing the AS90 armoured artillery capability by 35 per cent. [19549]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the Strategic Defence and Security Review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the Department's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation, which will generally be subject to full consultation with all relevant parties, including the trades unions and the devolved administrations. I am therefore not able to release more detailed figures at this time.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* Mastiff, *(b)* Ridgback and *(c)* Husky vehicles were in service in Afghanistan (i) in March 2010 and (ii) in October 2010. [21331]

Nick Harvey: We do not comment on the number of vehicles deployed in Afghanistan. I am withholding the information as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the in-service date is for the Future Rapid Effect System Utility Vehicle. [21339]

Peter Luff: The Future Rapid Effect System has been recast from a single programme into a set of constituent programmes: comprising a specialist vehicle, a utility vehicle and a manoeuvre support vehicle.

The total estimated costs and the in-service dates for each vehicle cannot be confirmed until their respective main investment decisions are made. The timing of these decisions will now be reviewed following the publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

Army: Training

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost of his proposals for increasing simulation training in the army in *(a)* 2010-11, *(b)* 2011-12 and *(c)* 2012-13. [19639]

Nick Harvey: Implementation of the strategic defence and security review will begin this autumn and continue into 2011, using the planning round processes and the work of the Defence Reform Unit. Measures to increase simulation training in the Army will be considered and costed as part of this process. Detailed costing has not yet been carried out and the information requested is therefore not currently available.

Chinook Helicopters

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what the in-service date is for the 12 Chinook helicopters on order; [19554]

(2) what cost savings he expects to accrue to his Department as a result of reducing the order for Chinook helicopters from 22 to 12. [19556]

Peter Luff: An order for 22 Chinook helicopters was never placed. The in-service date and cost of the 12 Chinook helicopters which we are now looking to buy will be determined at the project's Main Gate, the timing of which is subject to the ongoing planning round.

Defence Equipment

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what rationalisation in equipment holdings he plans to make other than those set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [19550]

Peter Luff: The National Security Strategy set out Britain's role in the world, the risks to our security and their implication for the UK. The complementary strategic defence and security review (SDSR) set out the capabilities required to deliver the National Security Strategy aspirations in this area by the 2020s.

Accordingly, the SDSR announced reductions in certain types of capabilities. There may be further rationalisation of equipment and stocks as we progress, including as a result of a revised methodology for determining equipment fleet sizes in the Army and to meet the new Defence Planning Assumptions (as outlined in the SDSR White Paper). The detail of this is, however, is still to be worked through.

Defence Equipment: Scotland

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* aircraft, *(b)* helicopters, *(c)* armoured vehicles, *(d)* main battle tanks, *(e)* armoured reconnaissance vehicles, *(f)* transport aircraft, *(g)* conventional naval vessels, *(h)* submarines and *(i)* field artillery are permanently based in Scotland in respect of each (i) equipment type and (ii) location. [19727]

Peter Luff: The information requested is set out in the following table, which is accurate as of 26 October 2010.

	Equipment type	*Location*	*Permanently based (number)*
Aircraft	Typhoon	RAF Leuchars	7
	Tornado F3	RAF Leuchars	14
	Tornado GR4	RAF Lossiemouth	45
Helicopters	Sea King MK3/3a	RAF Lossiemouth	2
	Sea King MK5	HMS Gannet	3
Armoured vehicles	Snatch	Faslane	5
	Snatch	Coulport	12
Main battle tanks	—	—	—
Armoured reconnaissance vehicles	—	—	—
Transport aircraft	—	—	—
Conventional naval vessels	Sandown Class Mine Counter Measure	HMNB Clyde	8
	P2000 Patrol Craft	HMNB Clyde	2
Submarines	Swiftsure Class	HMNB Clyde	1
	Vanguard Class	HMNB Clyde	4
	Astute Class	HMNB Clyde	1
Field Artillery	Light Gun	7 Cdo RA, Arbroath	6
	Light Gun	105 Regt RA (V) Edinburgh	[1]13

[1] 6 Light Guns are used for ceremonial purposes.

Defence Support Group

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how he plans to proceed with the sale of Defence Support Group. [19644]

Peter Luff: The Government intend to sell the Defence Support Group through an arrangement that continues to provide the Ministry of Defence with the levels of service support it requires while delivering best value for money. The project implementation plan is being developed. I will write to the hon. Member when this is complete.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for future ownership of the defence support group. [19731]

Peter Luff: As set out in the Strategic Defence and Security Review and spending review publications of 19 and 20 October, the Government intend to take forward the sale of the Defence Support Group.

Defence: Expenditure

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to reduce his Department's expenditure on *(a)* food, *(b)* energy and *(c)* professional services. [19649]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence has yet to finalise its plans to reduce expenditure in these areas. Release of detailed information at this stage may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers.

MOD is co-operating fully with the Cabinet Office led initiative to centralise commodity procurement for Government Departments. This work is expected to deliver significant efficiencies.

Defence: Industry

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what plans he has to consult representatives of *(a)* industry and *(b)* academia before publishing his Department's White Paper on defence industrial policy; [19630]

(2) what plans he has to consult representatives of *(a)* industry and *(b)* academia before publishing his Department's Green Paper on defence industrial policy. [19631]

Peter Luff: We intend to publish a Green Paper on our defence industrial and technology policy by the end of the year. There will then be a formal consultation period in the new year, during which all interested parties will have an opportunity to comment. We will subsequently bring forward a White Paper in spring 2011.

Departmental Allowances

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what changes to *(a)* service and *(b)* civilian personnel allowances he plans to make in the period to 2014-15. [21318]

Mr Robathan: The final shape of the package will depend on further work, which will be subject to full consultation with relevant parties, including the trades unions.

European Fighter Aircraft: Guided Weapons

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many successful tests of the Paveway IV bomb on the Typhoon F2 have been conducted. [19443]

Peter Luff: A programme to integrate Paveway IV on to Typhoon will culminate in full tests to deliver the capability in 2012. To date, 14 preliminary compatibility trials have been undertaken.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the Typhoon F2 has successfully used the *(a)* air launched anti-radiation missile, *(b)* brimstone missile, *(c)* Stormshadow missile, *(d)* Harpoon AGM-84 D, *(e)* Sting Ray missile, *(f)* general purpose bomb, *(g)* CRV-7 rockets and *(h)* Enhanced Paveway bomb in (i) combat and (ii) testing and training. [19444]

Peter Luff: Typhoon Tranche 1 aircraft are equipped with the 1000lb general purpose bomb, 1000lb Paveway II and Enhanced Paveway II guided munitions; these Typhoon capabilities have been used in training but not in combat. A programme to integrate the Paveway IV bomb onto Tranches 2 and 3 aircraft from 2012 is also under way.

Typhoon is not currently equipped to use any of the other weapons listed. The optimum weapon system solution, in light of Strategic Defence and Security Review decisions, is being evaluated. However, this will not include the Harpoon AGM-84 D anti-ship missile, which was taken out of service in 2004.

Future Strategic Tanker Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what alternatives to the private finance initiative, his Department considered as means of funding the future strategic tanker aircraft; and what the estimated cost of each such alternative was. [19734]

Peter Luff: The future strategic tanker aircraft requirement was tested against a private finance initiative (PFI) solution and a public sector comparator (PSC) throughout the approval process. It was also assessed against a fallback option involving a mix of second hand Airbus A330 and converted A400M aircraft. The precise cost comparisons were dependent on the scenarios tested, but in the majority of these scenarios the PFI solution was judged to be more cost effective when appropriate risk provision and full operating costs were taken into account.

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether the future strategic tanker aircraft will be deployed in high threat environments; what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of equipping the aircraft with platform protection measures; and what estimate he has made of the time required to modify the aircraft to include platform protection measures. [19735]

Peter Luff: No decisions have been made on whether the future strategic tanker aircraft will be required to deploy into high threat environments in its passenger carrying role and whether additional protection measures would be required. As options are being considered as part of the Department's planning round, it would be inappropriate to comment on costs or timescales at this stage.

Military Campaigns

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department plans to recognise veterans of military campaigns since 1939 who have not previously received campaign medals. [20745]

Mr Robathan: Veterans who took part in campaigns since 1939 for which a medal was instituted should have received that medal if they met the required qualifying criteria. Beyond recognised campaigns, we have no plans to institute a medal simply for service in the armed forces as this is recognised by the Veterans Badge. However, we are committed to review the awarding of medals and it is in our programme for government.

Military Decorations

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress he has made in his review of the rules governing the awarding of military medals; and if he will make a statement. [21058]

Mr Robathan: I refer the hon. member to the answer I gave on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 747W, to the hon. Member for New Forest East (Dr Lewis).

Navy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what plans he has for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability programme; and if he will make a statement. [21016]

Peter Luff: The requirement for the Military Afloat Reach and Sustainability (MARS) programme is driven by the logistic support needs of the future Navy; these are being assessed following the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review.

An international competition is underway for the MARS Tanker. The future MARS ships to deliver solid support remain uncommitted at this stage. It is too early to provide any details of how this capability is to be taken forward, and the requirement is being assessed against the scope and duration of future planned operations.

Nuclear Submarines: Accidents

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many collisions involving a UK nuclear-powered submarine and *(a)* another submarine, *(b)* another naval vessel, *(c)* a private vessel and *(d)* a merchant vessel there have been since 1979; and how many grounding incidents involving UK nuclear-powered submarines there have been since 2008. [20123]

Peter Luff: The full list of incidents of collisions and groundings involving Royal Navy nuclear powered submarines for which the Royal Navy holds records is as follows:

HMS Astute grounded off the Isle of Skye in October 2010.

HMS Torbay grounded in the Eastern Mediterranean in April 2009.

HMS Vanguard collided with FS Le Triomphant in February 2009.

HMS Superb grounded in the Red Sea in May 2008.

HMS Tireless struck an iceberg while on Arctic Patrol in May 2003.

HMS Trafalgar grounded on Fladda-chuain in November 2002

HMS Triumph grounded in November 2000.

HMS Victorious grounded, while surfaced, on Skelmorlie Bank in November 2000.

HMS Trenchant grounded off the coast of Australia in July 1997.

HMS Repulse grounded in the North Channel in July 1996.

HMS Trafalgar grounded off the Isle of Skye in July 1996.

HMS Valliant grounded in the North Norwegian Sea in March 1991.

HMS Trenchant snagged the fishing vessel Antares in the Arran Trench in November 1990.

HMS Spartan grounded west of Scotland in October 1989.

HMS Sceptre snagged the fishing vessel Scotia in November 1989.

HMS Conqueror collided with the yacht Dalriada off the Northern Irish coast in July 1988.

Nuclear Submarines: Training

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what training is provided to submarine commanders in *(a)* collision avoidance and *(b)* groundings. [20125]

Peter Luff: Submarine Commanding Officers complete a comprehensive series of inter-related, increasingly complex and demanding career courses. At each stage, ability is assessed and tested and the avoidance of collisions and grounding form an integral part of the immersive learning process required to command an extremely testing platform.

Puma Helicopters

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of extending the life of the Puma helicopter; and if he will make a statement. [19637]

Peter Luff: The programme to extend the life of the Puma helicopter agreed by the previous Administration (Puma HC Mk2 project) remains within its approval level of £339 million and is progressing well. As with other battlefield support helicopters, we are also enhancing Puma's capabilities to match the threat environment. The Strategic Defence and Security Review has confirmed the ongoing need for Puma.

RAF Lossiemouth: Joint Combat Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what expenditure his Department had incurred to locate the Joint Combat Aircraft at RAF Lossiemouth on the latest date for which figures are available. [20212]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* Prior to the Strategic Defence and Security Review, expenditure directly attributed to basing Joint Combat Aircraft at RAF Lossiemouth amounted to some £1.3 million. This work was to determine the detailed infrastructure requirements and estimated capital costs for the project, but there has been no expenditure on building or infrastructure work.

Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his decision on the Search and Rescue contract under the Private Finance Initiative. [20751]

Peter Luff: On 17 June the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced a review of the approval of the Search and Rescue Helicopter project in the context of the wider pressures on public spending. As soon as this review is complete an announcement will be made.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of the cancellation of contracts announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [20149]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* As part of the Strategic Defence and Security Review implementation process, we are now engaging in an extensive programme of commercial negotiations, some of which will lead to the cancellation of contracts. This work will focus on the areas where there have been the most significant changes in the SDSR, but is expected to involve all of the Ministry of Defence's key suppliers. Until these negotiations are complete it would be inappropriate for me to comment on the likely impact on personnel employed on any of the programmes affected.

Type 26 Frigates

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Type 26 frigates he plans to order in the next three years. [21171]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* The assessment phase for the Type 26 Global Combat Ship is not expected to conclude until late 2013, after which the main investment decision will be made and an initial order will be placed.

Sentinel

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology he used to reach his decision on the future of the Sentinel programme after its role in theatre is complete. [19565]

Peter Luff: The decision on Sentinel reflected an assessment of the range of surveillance capabilities currently available to the armed forces, the extent to which their outputs could be delivered by other means, including planned future capabilities, and the requirements of the new planning assumptions.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Asylum

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many times a grant of asylum has been *(a)* revoked and *(b)* not renewed under paragraph 339 A of the Immigration Rules in each of the last five years. [20273]

Damian Green *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The number of times an asylum grant has been revoked under paragraph 339A of the Immigration Rules in each of the last five years is as follows:

Decision year	*No. of cases*
2005	7
2006	11
2007	9
2008	16
2009	17

There have been no refusals to renew an asylum grant under paragraph 339A of the Immigration Rules since the process came into place in August 2010.

Borders: Personal Records

Mark Tami: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) what amendments will be required to her Department's e-Borders programme to take account of the European Commission decision of 17 December 2009 on minimum data requirements; [20452]

(2) what estimate she has made of the likely effect on the cost of the e-Borders programme of the implementation of the European Commission Decision of 17 December 2009 on minimum data requirements; [20453]

(3) what assessment she has made of the likely effects on the operation of her Department's e-Borders programme of the implementation of the European Commission Decision of 17 December 2009 on minimum data requirements; [20454]

(4) if she will estimate the number and percentage of passengers travelling into or out of the UK who are likely to exercise their right to opt out of producing advanced passenger information to the e-Borders programme as a result of the decision of the European Commission Decision of 17 December 2009 on minimum data requirements; [20455]

(5) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of adapting *(a)* air carrier industry systems and *(b)* her Department's e-Borders system to ensure that they are compliant with the provisions of the European Commission Decision of 17 December 2009 on minimum data requirements. [20456]

Damian Green: The European Commission wrote to the UK on 17 December 2009 giving its opinion on the complaint raised by the British Chamber of Shipping and their French counterparts regarding e-Borders compatibility with EU law on free movement and data protection. In respect of data protection, the European Commission agreed that it is legal for carriers to collect Advance Passenger Information on EU routes and for this to be transmitted to the UK, subject to the approval of each member state's data protection authority.

Since the December 2009 letter, UK and Commission officials have also been working together to reach a mutual understanding of how e- Borders operates in a way that strengthens the security of the UK and the EU more broadly but does not have an impact on free movement. Discussions with the Commission on this issue are close to being concluded but we await final written confirmation of the Commission's position, which we expect to have before the end of the year.

Once those discussions are complete, (and we have fully explored any implications with the industry) we will then be in a position to assess fully whether there will be any impact on the operation or costs of the e-Borders programme.

Crime: Hertfordshire

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the crime detection rate was in respect of each basic command unit of Hertfordshire Constabulary in each of the last five years. [19711]

Nick Herbert: The information requested is given in the table.

Detection rates are a ratio of crimes detected in a period to crimes recorded in a period. They are not based on tracking whether individual crimes recorded in a period have eventually been detected. From 1 April 2007 the rules governing recording of non-sanction detections were revised to reduce the scope within which they can be claimed to a very small limited set of circumstances. This has significantly reduced the number of non-sanction detections which has been reflected in the overall detection rates.

Detection rates for Basic Command Units in Hertfordshire

Basic Command Unit	*Period*	*Total detection rate*	*Sanction detection rate*
Hertfordshire Central	2005-06	26	21
	2006-07	28	27
	2007-08	29	29
	2008-09	33	33
	2009-10	38	38
Hertfordshire Eastern	2005-06	26	22
	2006-07	30	30
	2007-08	30	30
	2008-09	34	34
	2009-10	35	35
Hertfordshire Western	2005-06	26	24
	2006-07	29	29
	2007-08	29	29
	2008-09	32	32
	2009-10	32	32

Departmental Disciplinary Proceedings

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many officials in her Department have been *(a)* subject to disciplinary action, *(b)* removed from post, *(c)* transferred to another position and *(d)* dismissed for matters relating to their (i) disciplinary record and (ii) performance in each year since 1997. [18782]

Nick Herbert: Information prior to 2005-06, and on the number of officials removed from post or transferred to another position, is not held centrally and could be provided only at a disproportionate cost.

The following table sets out information held centrally in the Home Office (excluding its agencies) on formal misconduct action taken against staff in relation to their disciplinary record in each full financial year since 2005-06.

Formal misconduct action within Home Office HQ

Number

	Officials subject to misconduct action[1]	*Officials dismissed for misconduct*
2005-06	6	[2]—
2006-07	9	5
2007-08	12	6
2008-09	7	[2]—
2009-10	15	5

[1] Where an official was subject to misconduct action on more than one occasion within the same year they have been counted once within that year. [2] Where fewer than five members of staff were dismissed further information is withheld on confidentiality grounds.

We are unable to provide information on the number of officials subject to disciplinary action or dismissed in relation to their performance.

Departmental Sick Leave

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department for how many days on average her Department's staff in each pay grade were absent from work as a result of ill health in 2009-10. [18574]

Nick Herbert: The average working days lost (per staff year) to sickness absence for each pay grade in the Home Department in the financial year 2009-10 alongside the number of staff employed in each grade are shown in the following table:

Working days lost to sickness absence by pay grade for the Home Department for financial year 2009-10

Pay grade	*Average working days lost per staff year (days)*	*Staff employed in period (headcount FTE)*
AA	8.94	91.48
AO	8.23	391.23
EO	7.42	606.24
HEO	6.31	626.43
SEO	5.11	604.78
G7	3.81	560.17
G6	2.4	277.30
SCS	0.98	157.41
Total	5.57	3,315.04

Note:
Data shown are for paid civil servants employed during the financial year 2009-10.
Source:
Data View, the Home Office's single source of monthly Human Resources data
Extract date:
31 March 2010

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many days her Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 1997; and what estimate she made of the cost to her Department of sickness absence in each such year; [18783]

(2) how many officials in her Department have had *(a)* fewer than five days, *(b)* five to 10 days, *(c)* 10 to 15 days, *(d)* 15 to 20 days, *(e)* 20 to 25 days, *(f)* 25 to 50 days, *(g)* 50 to 75 days, *(h)* 75 to 100 days, *(i)* 100 to 150 days, *(j)* 150 to 200 days, *(k)* more than 200 days, *(l)* more than three months, *(m)* more than six months and *(n)* one year on paid sick leave (i) consecutively and (ii) in total in each year since 1997. [18784]

Nick Herbert: Sick absence within the Home Office is reported using Cabinet Office standards and definitions, which were introduced with effect from 1 April 2007.

The Home Office has also undergone a number of Machinery of Government changes over the period concerned, therefore we are only able to provide information from 2007. It is not possible to break down sickness absence into the 15 categories asked for over the period since 1997 as absence data are not recorded in this way and could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Table 1 provides information for the Home Office headquarters on the number of days the Department has lost to staff sickness in each year since 2007 and an estimate of the cost of sickness absence in each year.

Table 2 provides information for the Home Office headquarters the working days lost due to sick absence are shown as short and long-term absence durations since 2007 as per Cabinet Office Standards and Definitions.

Long-term absences are periods of sickness which continue for more than 21 working days or 29 calendar days.

Table 1: Working days lost due to sick absence and cost of sick absence

	Working days lost (FTE)	*Cost of sickness (£)*	*Staff employed in period (FTE)*
2007-08	20,685	n/a	[1]2,920
2008-09	15,024	2,192,087.21	[2]3,092
2009-10	16,368	2,476,208.91	[2]3,315

n/a = Not available

Note:

Extract date: 31 March each year.

Sources:

[1] Staff employed in period (FTE): Annual Civil Service Employment Survey 2008 (ACSES).

[2] Staff employed in period (FTE): Permanent Secretaries Management Group (PSMG).

WDLFTE: Permanent Secretaries Management Group (PSMG) taken from DataView.

Cost of Sickness: DataView

Table 2: Working days lost (FTE) by short and long-term absences

	Working days lost (FTE)		
	Short-term absence	*Long-term absence*	*Staff employed in period (FTE)*
2007-08	9,172	11,513	[1]2,920
2008-09	7,812	7,212	[2]3,092
2009-10	8,814	7,554	[2]3,315

Note:

Extract date: 31 March each year.

Sources:

[1] Staff employed in period (FTE): Annual Civil Service Employment Survey 2008 (ACSES).

[2] Staff employed in period (FTE): Pernament Secretaries Management Group (PSMG).

WDLFTE Permanent Secretaries Management Group (PSMG) taken from DataView.

Cost of Sickness: DataView

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations her Department has received from other EU member states on human trafficking. [17623]

Damian Green: There have been no recent representations from other EU member states on human trafficking. We have, however, been engaged in ongoing negotiations with EU member states and the European Commission on the EU directive on human trafficking.

The Government decided not to opt in to the directive at the outset, but to review the position once the directive has been agreed. We still have the option of applying to opt in at a later stage and engaging in ongoing negotiations will enable us to influence the final text of the directive, to ensure it is in our best interest.

Passport Office: Staff

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department (1) how many staff were employed in *(a)* each regional and *(b)* other major passport office in the latest period for which figures are available; [21109]

(2) what the resource cost was of each regional passport office in each of the last five years; and how much income each office generated in each such year; [21110]

(3) what estimate she has made of the cost to the public purse of redundancy payments and other costs to her Department arising from the closure of Newport Regional Passport Office; [21129]

(4) what estimate she has made of the potential saving to the public purse arising from the closure of Newport Regional Passport Office. [21130]

Damian Green: To assess the affordability of the proposal we have modelled a possible cost for redundancy. The Identity and Passport Service (IPS) estimates this cost to be in the region of £3.4 million. This amount is only indicative at this time as the precise number of staff who will receive redundancy compensation cannot be estimated with complete certainty at this stage and compensation arrangements are subject to further discussion and parliamentary approval.

We will seek to redeploy staff where possible, while meeting our need to reduce costs.

The closure of the Newport Passport Processing Centre and establishment of a new Customer Service Centre in Newport are still subject to consultation and the final cost of doing so is still subject to review.

IPS estimates that ceasing postal processing in the Newport Passport office in early 2012 will provide a net saving of £24 million by 2015. This is part of the wider £50 million of savings IPS intends to make over this period.

Police Custody: Illegal Immigrants

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what guidance she issues to police forces on the procedures to be followed on the release from police custody of suspected illegal immigrants who have been taken into custody following arrest for *(a)* immigration and *(b)* other offences. [19482]

Damian Green: Standard operating procedures are in place between the UK Border Agency and the police.

The UK Border Agency will respond as a priority to requests for assistance from police officers who have arrested an individual they suspect to be an illegal immigrant (regardless of the offence for which they have been arrested), including where the individual in question is about to be released from their custody.

Where necessary, UK Border Agency officers will attend police stations with a view to establishing the identity and circumstances of the individual and serving them with the appropriate paperwork, such as a form notifying them that they have entered the UK unlawfully.

Subsequent actions vary depending on the nature of the case, but can include the individual being transported to and detained in an Immigration Removal Centre pending their removal, or being transported to the Asylum Screening Unit if they advise that they wish to make an asylum application (this also may result in their detention as part of the asylum determination process).

As an example, between April and September 2010, the UK Border Agency's London and Southeast region received 286 such requests from the police forces within their area of responsibility; of these, 253 were attended by UK Border Agency officers and 232 individuals were arrested by them as a result.

Please note, this information is taken from management information tools; it has not been quality assured under National Statistics protocols and should be treated as provisional.

Police: Equipment

Mr Buckland: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment her Department has made of the merits of body-worn video and camera kit by police officers when gathering evidence; and if she will make a statement. [18211]

Nick Herbert: The most recent formal assessment of the merits of body worn video was conducted in 2007 following a pilot of this technology by Devon and Cornwall Constabulary. During the pilot the following key points were identified:

Violent crime fell by 8% in the pilot sectors (1% elsewhere);

More serious violence fell by 18% (no change elsewhere);

There was an increase of 40% in the number of violent crimes detected;

There was a reduction of 22% in officer time spent on paperwork and file preparation.

The pilot also revealed further positive results. These included, making police officers more aware of how they interact with members of the public and negating a number of complaints against the police.

Police: Finance

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent assessment she has made of the implications for police forces covering rural areas of changes to her Department's policing budget; and if she will make a statement. [19136]

Nick Herbert: The Spending Review reported on 20 October. Decisions on allocations, including to rural forces, will follow in early December when provisional policing settlements will be placed before the House.

Police: Operating Costs

Mr Hanson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the operating costs of each police authority in England and Wales was in the latest period for which figures are available. [15359]

Nick Herbert: The Government do not keep central records on the operating costs of police authorities. However, the Association of Police Authorities have set a benchmark of authorities' running costs of less than 0.75% of their budget, which amounts to £75 million (excluding the Metropolitan Police Service and the City of London) in England and Wales.

TRANSPORT

Bus Services: Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on bus services in non-metropolitan urban communities of his proposed reductions in subsidy to bus operators; [20507]

(2) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on disabled passengers of his proposed reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant; [20508]

(3) what assessment he has made of the likely effects of reductions in Bus Service Operators Grant on socially excluded groups; and whether his Department has carried out an equalities impact assessment in this respect; [20509]

(4) what assessment he has made of the effect on bus fares of the reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant; [20581]

(5) what assessment he has made of the likely effect of the proposed reduction in Bus Service Operator Grant on the number of bus services operated in *(a)* rural communities, *(b)* non-metropolitan urban communities and *(c)* metropolitan areas with an integrated transport authority. [20582]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has carried out an equalities impact assessment in respect of the 20% reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant which will come into effect in 2012-13. Our assessment is that this level of reduction will have a low impact, overall, on socially excluded groups, including disabled passengers.

We estimate that the potential average reductions in bus service mileage and increases in fares, as a direct result of the 20% reduction in Bus Service Operators Grant, in England outside London, could be:

rural areas—fares increases and service mileage reductions of around 2%

small towns—fares increases of around 1% and service mileage reductions of around 2%

larger non-metropolitan conurbations—res increases and service mileage reductions of around 1%

metropolitan areas—fares increases of around 2% and service mileage reductions of around 1%.

However, I spoke to the Confederation of Passenger Transport UK, who represent the bus industry, following the Chancellor's announcement on 20 October. They were hopeful that, in general, this level of reduction could be absorbed without fares having to rise. In practice, the impact will depend on the commercial decisions of bus operators and, where relevant, local authorities and TfL.

Crossrail

Maria Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport under what budget headings the savings on the Crossrail project under the proposals in the Comprehensive Spending Review will be made. [19792]

Mrs Villiers *[holding answer 26 October 2010]:* Crossrail is funded under sponsors agreement, partly by the Department for Transport and partly by Transport for London. The spending review announcement confirms Government's joint commitment with the Mayor of London to delivering Crossrail in its entirety.

Working with Crossrail Ltd and the Mayor, the Government have identified substantial savings of more than £1 billion to the Crossrail funding package, which includes the lengthening of the delivery programme for the central tunnel works by around a year.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport in which year he expects the Crossrail line to open. [21185]

Mrs Villiers: Under the revised programme for the construction of the central tunnels, we expect that phased introduction of Crossrail services will commence from 2018.

Cycling

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent assessment he has made of progress in his Department's Traffic Signs Review in relation to cycling; and when he expects the review to be completed. [20188]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport is making good progress with the Traffic Signs Policy Review and the delivery of its action plan, including the requirement to consider the needs of cyclists which is an important aspect of the review. The review will be completed early next year.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18403]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport does not record travel costs for senior officials separately. The information relating exclusively to senior officials could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Quarterly details of expenses and hospitality, including travel costs, for directors general and above are published on the Department's website:

http://www.dft.gov.uk/about/howthedftworks/costs/

Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what savings to the public purse he expects to result from the ending of the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee. [20511]

Norman Baker: The motivation behind the decision to end the Disabled Persons Transport Advisory Committee is not a financial one. In respect of the financial consequences, I cannot determine possible savings until successor arrangements have been finalised. We have committed to consult on successor arrangements.

Inland Waterways: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funding he plans to provide to support inland water-borne transport infrastructure in urban areas in the period of the Comprehensive Spending Review; and if he will make a statement. [20856]

Mike Penning: Support for inland waterborne transport infrastructure, such as wharves and jetties, has previously been funded through the Department's Freight Facilities Grant (FFG) scheme. The budget for this capital scheme and the Department's other capital programmes are currently under review following the settlement agreed in the Comprehensive Spending Review. It is therefore not possible at this stage to provide detailed information on future levels of funding. Further details will be made public shortly.

Insurance

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport when he plans to lay before Parliament regulations providing for continuous insurance enforcement; and if he will make a statement. [21251]

Mike Penning: The regulatory proposals are being considered by the coalition Government's Reducing Regulation Cabinet Subcommittee and we aim to lay regulations in November.

Local Government Finance

Andrew Gwynne: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with local authority representatives on the future of funding of major local authority schemes. [20357]

Norman Baker: On 10 June 2010 the Department for Transport issued a statement suspending the previous guidance for local authority major schemes and associated processes until the conclusion of the spending review. In the statement we strongly discouraged local authorities from progressing work on schemes until the funding position was clear. Therefore meetings with local authority representatives has been limited.

Having now published plans for the investment and prioritisation of major schemes on 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 177-179, the Department will now work closely with local authorities as part of this process and Ministers will be happy to consider requests for meetings as appropriate.

Motor Vehicles: Excise Duty

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many vehicles first registered before January 1973 were exempt from vehicle excise duty in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [20774]

Mike Penning: As at 22 August 2010 there were 302,308 licensed vehicles that were registered before January 1973 which were exempt from vehicle excise duty.

Pilots' National Pension Fund

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has received recent representations on the Pilots' National Pension Fund. [21393]

Mike Penning: I am aware of the deficit faced by the Pilots' National Pension Fund and the recent High Court judgment which clarified the trustees' powers to seek payments to address the deficit from Competent Harbour Authorities. I have received a number of written representations from the port associations and from individual ports.

I understand that the Association of Participating Bodies for the (PNPF) will be seeking early discussions with the trustees in order to try to work out an industry-based solution without Government involvement.

Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20697]

Norman Baker: The regional funding allocation (RFA) process has been abolished along with the regional layer of planning. The Secretary of State for Transport announced on 26 October 2010, *Official Report* column 177-79 his decisions on the inherited programme of RFA schemes.

Railways: Cycling

Paul Blomfield: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what plans he has for the implementation of his Department's proposals for cycle hubs at railway stations. [20647]

Mrs Villiers: A new cycle hub facility officially opened at Leeds station on 27 September. This 'CyclePoint' is based on a Dutch design and incorporates cycle storage, hire, retail and repair facilities under one roof.

The Government recognise the importance of cycle and rail integration and is committed to promoting cycling and walking and encouraging greener travel. We propose to grant longer rail franchises in order to give train operators the incentive to invest in the improvements passengers want, including better cycle facilities at stations. We acknowledge the importance of investing in station improvements and are committed to facilitating this investment through reforms to the way the railways are run.

Railways: Fares

Brandon Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria his Department uses to determine which rail fares are regulated; when those criteria were last reviewed; and whether he plans to review them again before the award of new rail franchises. [21086]

Mrs Villiers: Rail fare increases are regulated through provisions in Franchise Agreements.

There are two sorts of fares regulation: Commuter Fares Regulation covers commuter fares around London and other big cities and Protected Fares Regulation covers weekly season tickets and long-distance Off-Peak Return tickets (formerly known as Saver Return tickets) outside these areas.

The current fares regulation system was introduced in 2003 and we will be reviewing ticketing arrangements more generally next year although the level of regulated fares (moving to RPI+3% from 2012 for three years) was announced as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review.

Redundancy

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what criteria were used to determine which civil servants or groups of civil servants should be granted voluntary exit from his Department in 2010; who took the decisions based on those criteria; and whether he approved those decisions. [20354]

Norman Baker: The Department for Transport has used three criteria in selecting staff for voluntary exit:

Does the post require a formal qualification?

Could the post be backfilled from within DfT?

Does the exit provide value for money?

A validation panel was established to consider to whom offers of a voluntary exit should be made, based on evidence from the application forms which were signed by senior members of the Department.

The Secretary of State approved the making of offers within the criteria of the scheme and the financial business case submitted at the scheme's launch.

Roads: Accidents

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on the number of road accidents of the introduction of daylight saving time throughout the year. [19191]

Mike Penning: An update of the 1998 TRL research, published 21 April 2009, suggests that an estimated net 80 deaths and 200 serious casualties per year would be avoided if single/double summer time was adopted (based on 2003-07 casualty levels). This takes into account the possible increase in casualties in darker winter mornings as well as the greater reductions expected in the lighter evenings, when more casualties occur. More recent estimates suggest the savings may currently be slightly lower—around 70 deaths and 190 serious casualties. This is due to the recent reductions in overall casualties.

Roads: Repairs and Maintenance

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what funds he has allocated to highway improvements at Canford Bottom roundabout in Dorset; and if he will make a statement. [21222]

Mike Penning: Funding for the design work has been allocated to the scheme this year (2010-11) and funds are expected to be made available to construct this small scheme in 2011-12.

Roads: Snow and Ice

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport whether he has plans for central control of the supply of road grit to local authorities. [20658]

Norman Baker: It is for each local highway authority to set its winter service strategy, and to put arrangements in place to deliver that strategy. This includes the procurement of grit.

Should severe weather lead to a potential shortage in salt supplies, the Salt Cell[1] would be initiated to provide guidance to suppliers. It would also co-ordinate the allocation and distribution of salt from the 250,000 tonnes of salt which is being held as a strategic reserve, as recommended by independent review of the resilience of England's transport systems (the Quarmby review). Such allocations will be based on information which the Department (again in response to the Quarmby review) has begun to collate from highway authorities on their own salt stock levels, both before and during the winter season, and anticipated usage. This information, together with intelligence on the ability of domestic salt suppliers to meet national demand and detailed weather forecasts, will allow the need for an advisory prioritisation process through the Salt Cell to be constantly monitored.

[1] The Salt Cell was established during the last two winter seasons to collate salt stock and usage information from highway authorities and subsequently to provide detailed advice and guidance to UK salt suppliers as to how they may direct their limited supplies to prevent authorities running out of salt.

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20468]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has spent £1,660 on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies over the past 24 months.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

City of London Police Overseas Anti-Corruption Programme

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what plans his Department has for the funding of the City of London Police Overseas Anti-Corruption programme after 2011. [20476]

Mr O'Brien: The work of the City of London Police Overseas Anti-Corruption Unit is of interest to several Government Departments. Departments have collectively committed to ensure that funding will continue after 2011, as part of work to ensure effective implementation of the Bribery Act 2010. Details of how the unit will be funded are being agreed between departments as a result of the settlements in the Spending Review.

Health Portfolio Review

Alex Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development when he plans to publish his Department's 2009 health portfolio review. [19698]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) health portfolio review will be available by the end of November 2010 at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

Gaza: International Assistance

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what assessment he has made of the humanitarian situation in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [20676]

Mr Duncan: The humanitarian situation in Gaza has stabilised but remains fragile. The volume and range of goods entering Gaza has increased since Israel eased access restrictions in June 2010, although United Nations agencies are reporting difficulties obtaining approval for reconstruction projects and the necessary materials. Approximately 75% of Gazans are dependent on food aid and cannot obtain materials needed to rebuild their homes. The water and sewage system is dilapidated, with 90% of mains water unfit for drinking. Many people continue to suffer from post-traumatic stress and other psychological disorders.

Sierra Leone

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what projects his Department has in Sierra Leone. [20588]

Mr O'Brien: The Department for International Development's (DFID's) bilateral aid programme in Sierra Leone focuses on improving access to health, water and other basic services, maintaining stability, and improving the effectiveness and accountability of the Government of Sierra Leone, moving the country away, over time, from aid dependency towards self-funded development. The DFID Bilateral Aid Review will ensure that we have a greater focus on results and ensure value for money, maximising the impact of every pound we spend.

The Department's projects in health, water and sanitation is projected to deliver health care to up to half a million pregnant and nursing women and up to one million children in the coming year and provide access to clean drinking water and adequate sanitation to two million people over the next three years. In addition the Department's projects in governance and security are designed to deliver an increase in public revenues over four years; ensure that Sierra Leoneans are treated quickly and fairly when they seek recourse to the law; and enable Sierra Leone to hold credible elections in 2012 and beyond.

The full list of projects in Sierra Leone funded by the Department can be found on the departmental website at:

www.dfid.gov.uk

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Burma: Nuclear Fuels

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of *(a)* uranium production in and *(b)* uranium exports from Burma. [20838]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government have not received any reports on uranium production or exportation from Burma. We are aware however of media reports earlier this year alleging that Burma is developing a covert military nuclear programme. We take such allegations seriously and have expressed our concerns to the Burmese regime. Burma must act in accordance with its obligations under the nuclear non-proliferation treaty and all relevant UN Security Council resolutions and we urge Burma to amend its small quantities protocol as soon as possible. We will continue to monitor developments.

China: Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what discussions he has had with the Government of China on fossil fuel subsidy reform. [20411]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of fossil fuel subsidy reform was discussed with the Government of China during the Group of Twenty summit in Toronto in June.

Colombia: Trade Unions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will make representations to the Government of Colombia on its treatment of trade unionists and other members of civil society; and if he will make a statement. [20975]

Mr Jeremy Browne: I represented the UK at the inauguration of President Juan Manuel Santos in August. I took the opportunity of a private meeting with the President and several of his Ministers on 9 August to urge more progress on human rights. I was encouraged by the President's commitment to make human rights a "non-issue" in Colombia. We welcome this renewed commitment and we will work with his administration towards this common end.

We will continue to raise our concerns regularly with senior Colombian Ministers, and to work with unions and employer organisations to strengthen labour relations in Colombia. We are working with the UN on a research initiative to help improve trade union human rights protection and the development of positive labour relations. With the EU and other partners, we will continue to encourage a stronger relationship between the Colombian Government and civil society.

European Parliament

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions there have been at Head of Government level on a single seat European Parliament. [20775]

Mr Lidington: There have been no formal discussions between Heads of Government at European Council on a single seat for the European Parliament. However I have raised this in bilateral discussions with ministerial counterparts in other EU member states, with the European Commission and the European Parliament and will continue to press for the European Parliament to have only one seat, in Brussels.

Hamas: Human Rights

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his UN counterparts on allegations of human rights abuses by members of Hamas in Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [21142]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have regular dialogue with the UN regarding a number of human rights issues: this includes abuses carried out by members of Hamas.

We continue to call on Hamas to make immediate and concrete steps towards the quartet principles—unconditionally to release Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for over four years.

Kosovo: Serbia

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on progress in the Kosovo-Serbia talks. [20479]

Mr Lidington: In his public statement on 10 September, my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary welcomed the consensus of the United Nations General Assembly in agreeing a resolution[1] responding to the International Court of Justice's Advisory Opinion (in which the court concluded that Kosovo's Declaration of Independence did not violate international law). In its resolution, the General Assembly welcomed the readiness of the European Union to facilitate a process of dialogue between the parties to "promote co-operation, achieve progress on the path to the European Union and improve the lives of the people". The Government strongly welcome the commitment of Belgrade and Pristina to constructive engagement in such a dialogue, which will be an important factor for peace, security and stability in the Western Balkans. We hope the dialogue will begin soon. We have made clear our support to Baroness Ashton and her team as they prepare for it. We will stay in close touch with Baroness Ashton and EU partners as the preparations progress.

[1] UNGA resolution 64/298 of 9 September 2010

Russia: Fuels

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the government of the Russian Federation on fossil fuel subsidy reform. [20723]

Mr Bellingham: The issue of fossil fuel subsidy reform was discussed with the government of the Russian Federation during the G20 Summit in Toronto in June.

Somalia: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the *(a)* strength of the African Union peace-keeping force in Somalia and *(b)* the number of countries contributing to that force; and if he will make a statement. [20562]

Mr Bellingham: The African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM) currently consists of approximately 7,200 troops from Uganda and Burundi. Its existing mandated strength is 8,000.

AMISOM troops are working in extremely difficult conditions in Mogadishu and we greatly respect the professionalism, bravery and sacrifice of the Ugandan and Burundian forces. We will continue to contribute to the logistical costs of AMISOM through assessed contributions to the UN in addition to providing ad hoc support in terms of both equipment and training.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 25-6W, on Uganda: politics and government, how many British nationals and dependents are living in Uganda; what contingency plans are in place to evacuate them in the event of outbreak of violence before or after the election; and if he will make a statement. [20898]

Mr Bellingham: We have 250 British nationals registered with the British High Commission in Uganda, but estimate that between 3,000 and 4,000 British nationals reside in or are visiting Uganda at any one time. We maintain close contact with the British community through a network of Consular Wardens and via direct messaging with all British nationals registered with the High Commission.

Our High Commission in Kampala holds a civil contingency plan, which is reviewed and tested at least annually. This plan includes our response to scenarios where there is a serious threat to the safety of British nationals, where in the worst cases we would urge British nationals to leave the country.

West Papua: Overseas Investment

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on financial support by UK companies for the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estates project in West Papua. [21359]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have not received and are not aware of any reports that suggest the Merauke Integrated Food and Energy Estates (MIFEE) project has received financial support from UK companies. Nevertheless we understand the potential impact of the MIFEE project on sustainable land use efforts and local communities in West Papua, and our ambassador has raised the project with the Government of Indonesia on a number of occasions.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER

Constituencies

Martin Vickers: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what his latest estimate is of the likely cost of completing the work to be undertaken by the Boundary Commission on constituency boundaries under the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting and Constituencies Bill; and if he will make a statement. [21175]

Mr Harper: We estimate that the total cost of the next boundary review in each part of the UK will be £11.2 million. This includes the costs of staffing, accommodation, IT, printing, production of maps, advertising and publishing the final reports. Under the terms of the legislation presently in force, (Parliamentary Constituencies Act 1986), and on the basis of the duration of the fifth general review in each part of the UK, we estimate that a general boundary review would commence within the next three years in England and Scotland and the next five in Wales and Northern Ireland. The total cost of the fifth review in each part of the UK was £13.6 million.

Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill

Dr Francis: To ask the Deputy Prime Minister what assessment he has made of the views of *(a)* hon. Members elected for constituencies in Wales, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government and *(c)* civil society organisations in Wales on the provisions of the Parliamentary Voting Systems and Constituencies Bill; and if he will make a statement. [20057]

Mr Harper: I discussed the Parliamentary Voting System and Constituencies Bill with hon. Members serving Welsh constituencies at a special meeting arranged by the Secretary of State for Wales in September. The Secretary of State for Wales has discussed the effects of the Bill in Wales with the First Minister for Wales and the Welsh Assembly Government Cabinet. The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Wales has discussed the proposals with representatives from a number of interested bodies in Wales, including the Boundary Commission for Wales, CBI Wales, the Wales TUC and the Wales Council for Voluntary Action.

CABINET OFFICE

Employment: Bexleyheath

Mr Evennett: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of working age people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency are employed in the *(a)* private and *(b)* public sector. [19967]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working age people in Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency are employed in the (a) private and (b) public sector. (19967)

Since August 2010 labour market statistics are no longer based on a working age definition. These statistics are now based on people aged 16-64 years.

The Office for National Statistics (ONS) preferred source of statistics for public sector employment is the Quarterly Public Sector Employment Survey (QPSES) and external sources, however, figures from this source are not available for parliamentary constituencies.

Alternatively public sector employment statistics for local areas can be calculated from the Annual Population Survey (APS). Individuals in the APS are classified to the public or private sector according to their responses to the survey. Consequently, the classification of an individual's sector may differ from how they would be classified in QPSES statistics.

According to APS figures, in the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, the proportion of the resident population aged 16-64 years of Bexleyheath and Crayford constituency employed in the private sector was 48 per cent and employed in the public sector was 21 per cent.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at:

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Employment: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what proportion of the working population of Oxford West and Abingdon constituency is employed in the *(a)* public and *(b)* private sector. [21057]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question asking what proportion of the working population of Oxford West and Abingdon constituency is employed in the (a) public and (b) private sector. (21057)

Based on the Annual Population Survey (APS), in the 12 month period April 2009 to March 2010, 63 per cent of the working population of the Oxford West and Abingdon constituency were estimated to be employed by the private sector, with the remaining 37 per cent employed in the public sector.

As with any sample survey, estimates from the APS are subject to a margin of uncertainty.

National and local area estimates for many labour market statistics, including employment, unemployment and claimant count are available on the NOMIS website at

http://www.nomisweb.co.uk

Foreign Nationals: Yemen

Keith Vaz: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many Yemeni nationals were resident in the UK in each of the last five years. [20016]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics (ONS), I have been asked to respond to your Parliamentary Question to Secretary of State for the Home Department, concerning how many Yemeni nationals were resident in the UK in each of the last five years. [20016].

The Office for National Statistics collects data on nationality as part of the Annual Population Survey (APS) which covers residents of the UK. The estimates for the number of Yemeni nationals for the calendar years of 2007 to 2009 are given in the table below. Please note that because these data are based on a sample survey, there is a degree of statistical uncertainty about these estimates, expressed as confidence intervals in the table.

I am unable to provide an estimate for the calendar years of 2005 and 2006, because specific data was not collected by the APS for this nationality in these years.

Table 1: Estimated population resident in the United Kingdom, who have Yemeni nationality 2007 to 2009

Thousand

	Yemeni nationality	
	Estimate	*CI+/-*
2007	5	3
2008	10	4
2009	14	5

CI = Confidence Interval.

Source:

Annual Population Survey (APS)/Labour Force Survey (LFS), ONS

Institute for Fiscal Studies: Expenditure

Robert Halfon: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20474]

Mr Maude: In the last two financial years for which audited accounts are available, the Cabinet Office has spent £8,792 with the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Teenage Pregnancy

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many girls aged under 16 years were recorded as becoming pregnant in each month between December 1984 and October 1985; and if he will make a statement. [20252]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many aged under 16 years were recorded as becoming pregnant in each month between December 1984 and October 1985 (20252).

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths and legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions. Prior to 1987, a woman's age at conception was calculated on a different basis and therefore it is not possible to accurately compare the level of conceptions prior to 1987 against levels in subsequent years.

There were 9,406 conceptions to women aged under 16 years in England and Wales in 1985. Figures by month are not readily available, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

Mr Amess: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office how many girls aged each year up to 16 years who *(a)* are recorded as becoming pregnant, *(b)* had an abortion, *(c)* gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and *(d)* gave birth and kept the child in each region between December 1984 and October 1985; and if he will make a statement. [20253]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated October 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent Parliamentary Question asking how many girls aged each year up to 16 years who (a) are recorded as becoming pregnant, (b) had an abortion, (c) gave birth and gave the child up for adoption and (d) gave birth and kept the child in each region between December 1984 and October 1985 (20253).

Figures on conceptions are estimates based on the number of live births, stillbirths and legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions. Prior to 1987, a woman's age at conception was calculated on a different basis and therefore it is not possible to accurately compare the level of conceptions prior to 1987 against levels in subsequent years. As conceptions data files for 1984 and 1985 are archived, extracting this data to provide figures by for this specific time period could only be provided at disproportionate cost.

The table below provides (a) the number of conceptions among women aged under 16 years and (b) the rate of abortions per 1,000 women aged 13-15 years for standard regions in England and Wales for 1985. Figures by month are not readily available, and could only be provided at disproportionate cost. Figures for individual years of age cannot be provided at regional level in order to protect the privacy of individuals. Outcomes of pregnancies (kept or given up for adoption) are not available and adoption statistics are not published by age of birth mother.

Conceptions[1] to women aged under 16 years[2] by standard regions of England and Wales[3], 1985

	Number	*Rates per 1,000 women aged 13-15 years*
Area of women's usual residence	*Conceptions*	*Abortions*
England and Wales	9,406	4.8
England	8,829	4.8
Wales	577	4.3
Standard Regions		
Northern	683	4.7
Yorkshire and Humberside	1,046	4.9
East Midlands	848	5.1
East Anglia	348	5.3
South East	2,665	4.5
South West	702	4.9
West Midlands	1,184	6.0
North West	1,353	4.5

[1] Figures on conceptions are based on the number of live births, stillbirths and legal abortions. They do not include miscarriages and illegal abortions.

[2] Age at estimated date of conception.

[3] Women usually resident in England and Wales.

TREASURY

Capital Projects: Finance

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to encourage the use of municipal bonds to fund capital projects in local government; and if he will make a statement. [21254]

Danny Alexander: Local authorities are already free to use municipal bonds to finance capital investment. It is for local authorities to determine the most appropriate means of financing local capital projects.

Child Benefit

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether the mother of a child will continue to be the primary recipient of child benefit. [21394]

Mr Gauke: In general the law does not specify which parent should claim and receive child benefit; it is a matter for the parents to decide.

Child Benefit: Dunbartonshire

Gemma Doyle: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what recent estimate he has made of the number of households in West Dunbartonshire local authority area which will be affected by the proposed withdrawal of child benefit from families with a higher rate tax payer. [21338]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for child benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level.

Corporation Tax

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the annual change in revenue to the Exchequer from UK banks as a result of recent reductions in the rate of corporation tax. [20513]

Mr Gauke: I refer the hon. Gentleman to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for St. Ives (Andrew George) on 26 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 722W.

Corporation Tax: Third Sector

Paul Maynard: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much he expects to accrue to the Exchequer from corporation tax paid by *(a)* social enterprises and *(b)* community interest companies in 2010-11. [20458]

Mr Gauke: Information on the amount expected to accrue to the Exchequer from corporation tax paid by *(a)* social enterprises and *(b)* community interest companies in 2010-11 is not available.

New Businesses: South-East

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what account he took of the variations in levels of need in the South-East when developing his proposals for national insurance exemptions for new businesses. [19263]

Mr Gauke *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* The employer National Insurance holiday for new businesses is intended to promote the formation of new businesses employing staff in those countries and regions most reliant on public sector employment.

Within the regions excluded from the scheme there will be areas with high levels of public sector employment. However, targeting smaller areas such as local authority areas would not reflect that in practice labour markets span larger areas and a more granular scheme would be costly and complex to administer.

Public Expenditure

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many of the suggestions for savings made through his Department's Spending Challenge website he *(a)* has implemented and *(b)* plans to implement. [21291]

Danny Alexander: The responsibility for implementing ideas arising through the Spending Challenge rests with the relevant Government Department. A number of ideas that are now being implemented by Departments were announced alongside the spending review. These ideas are set out in full on the Spending Challenge webpage on the Treasury website at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_spendingchallenge.htm

As set out in the spending review document a number of the proposals Government received fed into larger reforms announced over the summer and alongside the spending review.

Ideas received through the Spending Challenge will continue to play an important role in delivering more for less over the spending review period. Departments will continue to review ideas to identify and implement those that could help deliver further efficiencies.

Revenue and Customs

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what assessment he has made of the likely effects on HM Revenue and Customs of the outcome of the Comprehensive Spending Review. [20891]

Mr Gauke: Analysis of HM Revenue and Customs' outcomes informed the Spending Review, including the decision to re-invest £900 million over the period to tackle tax avoidance, evasion, fraud and debt. This is expected to deliver an additional £7 billion in tax revenues by 2014-15.

Tax Avoidance

Paul Flynn: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proposals he plans to introduce to address tax avoidance. [20726]

Mr Gauke: This Government are committed to tackling avoidance and intends to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and to review areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes. We are also considering whether there is a case for developing a general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) for the UK.

Alongside this we will continue to use intelligence obtained from the disclosure of tax avoidance schemes regime and other sources to detect avoidance schemes early and we will challenge avoidance robustly where we find it.

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what steps he is taking to reduce the level of tax avoidance in respect of *(a)* inheritance tax, *(b)* capital gains tax, *(c)* income tax, *(d)* stamp duty and *(e)* value added tax; and if he will make a statement. [20889]

Mr Gauke: This Government are committed to tackling avoidance and intends to build in sustainable defences against avoidance opportunities when undertaking policy reform and to review areas of the tax system in which repeated changes have been necessary to close loopholes. We are also considering whether there is a case for developing a general anti-avoidance rule (GAAR) for the UK.

Alongside this we will continue to use intelligence obtained from the disclosure of tax avoidance schemes regime and other sources to detect avoidance schemes early and we will challenge avoidance robustly where we find it.

Taxation

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend the law on independent taxation. [21343]

Mr Gauke: The Government keep all areas of the tax system under review, and will announce any changes to the personal tax system as appropriate.

VAT: Churches

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer (1) whether he has discussed in the Council of Ministers any proposed reduction in the rate of value added tax applicable to church repairs in the UK; [20987]

(2) what representations he has received on reducing the rate of value added tax on church repairs; [20988]

(3) whether approval at EU level is required for any proposal to reduce the rate of value added tax applicable to church repairs in the UK; and if he will make a statement. [20989]

Mr Gauke: The introduction of any new reduced VAT rates would require the agreement of our EU partners.

There have been no discussions in the EU Council of Ministers on reduced rates of VAT since 2009.

Treasury Ministers and officials receive representations about many issues from a wide range of organisations and individuals in the public and private sectors as part of the process of policy development and delivery. It is not the Government's practice to provide details of such representations.

Welfare Tax Credits: Payments

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many tax credit recipients *(a)* had their payments revised between July 2009 and June 2010 owing to a change of circumstance, *(b)* were consequently awarded a backdated payment for a period previously paid for and *(c)* were subsequently required to repay the duplicated payment. [20497]

Mr Gauke: The specific information is available only at disproportionate cost.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Carbon Emissions: Technology

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the funds allocated for development of low-carbon technologies in the comprehensive spending review he plans to allocate to offshore wind and manufacturing at port sites. [21195]

Charles Hendry: Up to £60 million will be made available to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites, to meet the needs of offshore wind manufacturers looking to locate new facilities in assisted areas in England. Announcements on support for other low-carbon technology programmes will be made in due course.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21526]

Gregory Barker: No specific redundancy costs are identified in the Department's spending review settlement letter. DECC's settlement letter stated, that it will meet any redundancy costs required from within its settlement.

Energy: Imports

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of *(a)* UK and *(b)* EU energy imports which come from (a) the Russian Federation, (b) Central Asia and (c) the South Caucasus. [20685]

Charles Hendry: The proportion of UK and EU energy imports from the Russian Federation, Central Asia and South Caucasus in 2009 are shown in the following tables.

UK import

	Oil	*Coal*	*Gas*	*Percentage Total energy*
Russia	9	49	0	13
Central Asia	0	0	0	0
South Caucasus	0	0	0	0

EU import

	Oil	*Coal*	*Gas*	*Percentage Total energy*
Russia	25	26	28	26
Central Asia	3	0	0	2
South Caucasus	3	0	0	2

Notes:

In producing the above statistics

1. Central Asia comprises of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Tajikistan.
2. South Caucasus comprises of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.
3. The EU percentage is based on OECD data which includes data from the largest EU member states and covers over 97% of EU GDP.
4. Some gas (far too low to quantify) from Russia might have reached the UK across the continental Europe via the Balgzand-Bacton (Netherland) and Bacton-Zeebrugge(Belgium) pipelines.

Energy: Prices

Dr Whitehead: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department monitors the number of energy tariffs that change in a time shorter that the standard period in which a customer may complete a supplier switch. [20434]

Charles Hendry: DECC does not hold the information requested. In order to meet its principal duty, to protect the interests of consumers, Ofgem collects relevant information but I understand it does not have the specific data requested.

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what discussions he has had with Ofgem on its steps to improve reporting and monitoring in respect of the wholesale retail link to domestic prices. [20682]

Charles Hendry: DECC officials meet with Ofgem on a regular basis to discuss market issues. Since 2008 Ofgem have also produced a quarterly report on the link between wholesale and retail energy prices, which would consider to be an adequate regularity.

Fossil Fuels: Subsidies

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the answer of 18 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 479W, on fossil fuels: subsidies, what definition of fossil fuel subsidies his Department uses. [20505]

Charles Hendry: There is no commonly accepted definition of fossil fuel subsidies and it may be appropriate to use different definitions depending on the context. In preparing the UK's response to the G20 Fossil Fuel subsidies initiative, we used the following definition:

> "A fossil-fuel subsidy is any government measure or program with the objective or direct consequence of reducing below world-market prices, including all costs of transport, refining and distribution, the effective cost for fossil fuels paid by final consumers, or of reducing the costs or increasing the revenues of fossil-fuel producing companies."

A number of other G20 states also used this definition of fossil fuel subsidy.

Liquefied Petroleum Gas

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between Ministers and hon. Members on the diversity of liquid petroleum gas supplies. [21000]

Charles Hendry: In my earlier reply about what representations I had received on the diversity of liquid petroleum gas (LPG) supplies for domestic consumers of LPG on communal contracts, I answered that the Department had received four representations from hon. Members since August. In fact we had received four representations since July; I apologise for this error. Copies of the four letters, together with a follow up to one of them, will be placed in the House Libraries with personal details redacted.

Natural Gas: Storage

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress has been made on his Department's proposals for the gas storage capacity under the Irish Sea. [20686]

Charles Hendry: The two public proposals for gas storage facilities under the Eastern Irish sea—Gateway and Bains—are commercial projects, being taken forward by their respective backers. The forthcoming Energy Security and Green Economy Bill will include a provision to strengthen the market incentive mechanism for ensuring sufficient gas is available. This will help to underpin commercial demand for gas supply infrastructure, including gas storage facilities.

Nuclear Development Forum

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change who participated in the meeting of the Nuclear Development Forum on 28 October 2010; what the agenda was of that meeting; and what the cost to his Department was of hosting that meeting. [20590]

Charles Hendry: The Nuclear Development Forum held on 28 October 2010 was chaired by Charles Hendry. A copy of the attendee list and the agenda for the Nuclear Development Forum held on 28 October 2010 is available on the forum's website:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/en/content/cms/what_we_do/uk_supply/energy_mix/nuclear/new/develop_forum/develop_forum.aspx

All other papers submitted for information or discussion will be made available on the website very shortly.

The estimated cost of hosting the Nuclear Development Forum on 28 October 2010 was £1,416.

Nuclear Power

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change with reference to paragraph 4.E.2 of the Strategic Defence and Security Review, Cm 7948, what unnecessary obstacles to investment in nuclear power he has identified. [20729]

Charles Hendry: The Government are committed to removing any unnecessary obstacles to investment in new nuclear and are undertaking a series of facilitative actions. These actions include:

development of a Nuclear National Policy Statement, including a list of potentially suitable sites, to provide a framework for planning decisions;

Regulatory Justification of new nuclear reactor designs;

ensuring that the regulators have the ability to maintain the level of resource needed to deliver a meaningful end to Generic Design Assessment of new nuclear reactor designs; and

finalising the arrangements to ensure that new nuclear operators set aside sufficient money from day one to pay for waste and decommissioning.

The Government are also undertaking reform of the nuclear regulator to ensure it is fit for purpose going forwards, and working to ensure that there is a supply chain and skills base in place to enable new nuclear to happen and ensure that the UK benefits from this activity.

Nuclear Power: Carbon Emissions

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change pursuant to the statement of 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, columns 867-881, on the Annual Energy Statement, what assumptions his Department has made in respect of the quantities of carbon emissions arising from the front end of the nuclear fuel cycle, including uranium mining, milling, enrichment and fuel fabrication, in the model used in its calculator of potential energy pathways by 2050. [20749]

Charles Hendry: The 2050 pathways calculator presents a high-level framework through which to consider some of the choices and trade-offs which the UK will have to make in the over the next forty years. It shows that it is possible for us to meet the 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction target in the UK in a range of ways.

The 2050 pathways calculator takes as its starting point the actual UK emissions at 2007. Emissions originating from the overseas manufacture of products which the UK imports, such as uranium, are not included in the UK's 80% emissions reduction target for 2050 as defined in the Climate Change Act and consistent with international carbon reporting practice. These 'embedded emissions' are therefore also not included within the 2050 pathways analysis.

The 2050 pathways calculator models a wide range of future scenarios from 2007 to 2050. Given the need to ensure that the functioning and content of the model is manageable, it has been necessary to keep it as simple as possible. The UK-based emissions from energy infrastructure, materials and processes (such as enrichment and fuel fabrication) are intended to be captured within the 'Industry' sector of the 2050 pathways calculator, and no explicit assumptions were made about emissions from the specific processes mentioned in the question.

Renewable Energy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what proportion of the UK's electricity production he expects to be generated from renewable energy sources following achievement of the 15% renewables target. [21265]

Charles Hendry: It is estimated that around 30% of electricity will need to come from renewable sources in 2020 as part of the effort to achieve the UK's 15% renewable energy target.

Renewable Energy: Heating

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change for what reasons he decided against introducing a levy to pay for the renewable heat incentive. [21288]

Charles Hendry: The original proposal for the renewable heat incentive to be funded by a levy on suppliers of fossil fuel heat presented a number of practical problems and, as a result, was potentially costly to consumers, business and Government.

We have reviewed the options available and, in making a decision, we have considered whether the funding mechanism is equitable, transparent and efficient, taking into account a cross section of views. We believe funding the renewable heat incentive through Government spending better fulfils those criteria than the levy proposed by the previous Government.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate his Department made of the revenue likely to accrue from the levy proposed by the previous administration to pay for the renewable heat incentive. [21289]

Charles Hendry: Our powers according to the Energy Act are limited to funding the RHI expenditure so any levy would have had to be designed to meet these funding requirements.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether the funding allocated for the renewable heat incentive will be disbursed in instalments of decreasing monetary value; and if he will make a statement. [21290]

Charles Hendry: The spending review announced £860 million of investment for the renewable heat incentive (RHI) scheme over the four year spending review period. Following this decision, we are currently finalising details of the RHI, including how the tariffs will be paid out, and we expect to be in a position to confirm these details shortly.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what measures will contribute to the proposed 20% saving on the estimated cost of the previous administration's plans for the renewable heat incentive to 2014-15. [21294]

Charles Hendry: As part of the spending review process we have looked again at the renewable heat incentive to target the scheme more effectively and efficiently. We expect to be in a position to announce the details of the scheme, including RHI tariffs, technologies supported, and details of how these 20% savings will be delivered, shortly.

Renewables Obligation: Parliamentary Scrutiny

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will bring forward proposals to establish a mechanism for parliamentary scrutiny of the administration of the renewables obligation. [21095]

Gregory Barker: The Electricity Act 1989 as amended by the Energy Act 2008 places a duty on Ofgem to administer the renewables obligation, requiring it to ensure compliance of, and make payments from the buyout fund to, those licensed suppliers upon whom the obligation falls.

The accounting officer for the Gas and Electricity Markets Authority is accountable to Parliament for the actions of Ofgem. Parliament votes Ofgem's estimate, which includes appropriating in aid the renewables obligation administration costs. Through the estimates process and select committees, Parliament has the opportunity to scrutinise all of Ofgem's running costs, including the administration of the renewables obligation. Ofgem also publishes annual reports setting out details of its administration of the renewables obligation, these are publicly available and made available to Parliament.

UN Adaptation Fund

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent financial contribution his Department has made to the UN Adaptation Fund; and if he will make a statement. [21190]

Gregory Barker: We welcome progress that the Adaptation Fund has made recently in approving its first projects and accrediting implementing entities. The UK has been supporting the design of the Adaptation Fund as an alternate board member, and we provided £500,000 in start-up funding in 2008.

The UK has provided considerable support for adaptation this year through existing bilateral and multilateral channels including an allocation to the Pilot Programme for Climate Resilience (PPCR), which pilots and demonstrates ways in which climate risk and resilience may be integrated into core development planning and implementation.

The spending review provides a total of £2.9 billion of international climate finance—called the International Climate Fund (ICF)—over the spending review period. We will be considering future allocations to multilateral funds consistent with Government priorities. This will include consideration of whether to make a contribution to the Adaptation Fund.

Warm Front Scheme

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the number of homes provided with energy efficiency measures under the Warm Front scheme since its inception which were *(a)* privately rented, *(b)* owned by a local authority or housing association, *(c)* owned by a charity and *(d)* owner-occupied. [20432]

Gregory Barker: The number of households Warm Front has assisted with energy efficiency measures since its inception divided by housing tenure is as follows:

Tenure	*Number*
Owner occupied	1,829,299
Private rented	240,305
Rented from housing association or local authority	[1]168,166

Tenure	*Number*
Other	1,720
Total	[2]2,239,490

[1] Since 2002 properties rented from housing association or local authority are not covered by the Warm Front scheme. [2] All data are presented as at 30 September 2010.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many households with children aged *(a)* 0 to four and *(b)* five to 16 years received assistance through Warm Front in each year since the scheme's inception; whether he has estimated the number of such households which were in receipt of housing benefit in each such year; and what estimate he has made of the number of households in (i) 2010 and (ii) 2011 who will be assisted by Warm Front. [20433]

Gregory Barker: The information is as follows:

(a) The number of households with children aged *(a)* 0 to four and *(b)* five to 16 years that have received assistance through Warm Front in each year since the scheme's inception is as follows:

Child age at application	*2000-01*	*2001-02*	*2002-03*	*2003-04*	*2004-05*	*Number* *2005-06*
Child aged 0 to 4 years	6,059	22,063	21,339	16,255	12,725	17,963
Child aged 5 to 16 years	9,218	27,301	26,411	20,581	16,507	26,469
Total	15,277	49,364	47,750	36,836	29,232	44,432

Child age at application	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*[1]	*Number* *Total*
Child aged 0 to 4 years	20,678	23,693	23,524	26,848	8,673	199,820
Child aged 5 to 16 years	33,936	33,419	32,878	33,820	11,605	272,145
Total	54,614	57,112	56,402	60,668	20,278	471,965

[1] Up to 30 September 2010.

(b) The number of households with children in receipt of housing benefit in each year is as follows:

Child age at application	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*	*2010-11*	*Number* *Total*[1]
Child aged 0 to 4 years	411	644	903	915	1,349	626	4,848
Child aged 5 to 16 years	315	625	604	584	728	333	3,189
Total	726	1,269	1,507	1,499	2,077	959	8,037

[1] This information is only available post 2005.

(c) Eaga, as the Warm Front scheme manager, estimates that c.150,000 households will be assisted in 2010-11. Estimated data for 2011-12 are not currently available.

West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will require all members of the West Cumbria Managing Radioactive Waste Safely Partnership to *(a)* submit to a publicly accessible register details of all (i) past and (ii) current interests that they have had with the nuclear industry and *(b)* update the registered details on each occasion they change. [20728]

Charles Hendry: The Managing Radioactive Waste Safely (MRWS) White Paper set out that once a community had expressed an interest in the geological disposal facility siting process, local Government should take the lead role in initiating further discussions with local partners and organising community engagement. As such, local authorities that have expressed an interest in west Cumbria have set up the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership as an advisory body to 'make recommendations to Allerdale borough council, Copeland borough council and Cumbria county council on whether they should participate in the geological disposal facility siting process, without commitment to eventually host a facility'. It will then be for those local authorities to take a decision on whether or not to participate further in the process.

Government do not require a register of interests from the West Cumbria MRWS Partnership. It is for the local authorities who established this Partnership to satisfy themselves that it is appropriately constituted and that they are satisfied with the advice it ultimately provides them. Detailed information on the way the Partnership works including information on membership is available on their website at:

http://www.westcumbriamrws.org.uk/

Government will want in turn to be satisfied that any Decision to Participate is credible and would expect any decision to be accompanied by a report setting out the approach taken to engagement, the outcomes of that engagement and making clear the basis of the decision.

Wind Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what legal advice he received on compliance with state aid rules of his Department's port upgrade competition; and if he will make a statement. [21287]

Charles Hendry: Last week the Department made available up to £60 million to support offshore wind manufacturing infrastructure at port sites, to meet the needs of offshore wind manufacturers looking to locate new facilities in assisted areas in England.

The Department regularly seeks legal advice on a variety of issues relating to developing and implementing policy and is entitled, as is any other person, to treat such advice as subject to legal professional privilege and hence confidential. It is not practice to reveal the nature of that advice, in order to prevent possible prejudice which may arise if privilege is waived or unnecessary challenges are prompted.

Wind Power: Noise

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effect of noise generated by the operation of (i) wind turbines and (ii) turbine blades. [21261]

Charles Hendry: DECC has recently commissioned a research project to analyse how noise impacts are considered in the determination of wind farm planning applications in England. The project, which is being carried out by Hayes McKenzie partnership, is due to be published in early 2011.

A number of previous studies on noise from wind turbines have been commissioned by Government in recent years. In 2006 the then Department of Trade and Industry published a report carried out by Hayes McKenzie partnership into low frequency noise from wind turbines. Following on from this report, the then Department of Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform commissioned Salford University to carry out further work in into phenomenon known as Aerodynamic Modulation (AM). AM, often described as blade swish, refers to aerodynamic noise from wind turbines, but with a greater than normal degree of regular fluctuation at blade passing frequency. This report was published in 2007.

EDUCATION

Academies: Thurrock

Jackie Doyle-Price: To ask the Secretary of State for Education which schools in Thurrock local education authority area have applied to become academies; and if he will make a statement. [17874]

Mr Gibb: The Department for Education has been working with one school in the Thurrock local authority area which is judged to be outstanding by Ofsted and which has applied to convert to academy status—Ockendon School in Thurrock.

British Educational Communications and Technology Agency

David Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on the future of the National Virtual School developed by the British Educational Communications and Technology Agency after the Agency is closed. [17914]

Mr Gibb: No representation to the Secretary of State has been made on the future of the National Virtual School to date.

Education and Employers Taskforce

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Education and Employers Taskforce since its inception. [17191]

Mr Gibb: The Education and Employers Taskforce was launched in October 2009. Its funding is granted on the basis of meeting rigorous and annually agreed objectives. No formal evaluation of the taskforce's effectiveness has been carried out. Some of the taskforce's activities include organising 'Visit Our Schools and Colleges' week, 18-22 October 2010, which will see senior figures from industry visiting schools and colleges to talk to head teachers and principals about their priorities; strengthening the evidence base about the impact of employer involvement with education and producing new guidance for teachers and employers. It has received employer contributions which auditors have valued at over £600,000.

Education Maintenance Allowance

Mr Umunna: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether he has made an estimate of the number of *(a)* girls and *(b)* boys who received education maintenance allowance in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [17136]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* This is a matter for the Young People's Learning Agency (YPLA) who operate the education maintenance allowance for the Department for Education. Peter Lauener the YPLA's chief executive, will write to the hon. Member with the information requested and a copy of his reply will be placed in the House Libraries.

Education: Assessments

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress his Department has made in the process of equivalence testing of examination courses and qualifications. [17234]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to reforming school performance tables to increase their rigour and ensure a focus on improving educational outcomes. As part of that reform, we are reviewing the use of equivalences in the performance tables and will be making more detailed announcements in the coming months.

Environment Protection: Curriculum

Nic Dakin: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what aspects of environmental understanding children will be expected to acquire by the age of *(a)* 11, *(b)* 14 and *(c)* 16 years under his plans for the future of the school curriculum. [17289]

Mr Gibb: We are committed to restoring the national curriculum to its original purpose—a core entitlement based on subject knowledge. A slimmed down national curriculum will allow schools more freedom and time to build on that core entitlement to provide a rich educational experience for all their pupils and to continue to use their professional judgment to organise teaching as they see fit.

We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world. More details about our plans to review the curriculum will be announced later in the year.

Free School Meals: Wales

Chris Ruane: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many children in each constituency in North Wales received free school meals in each of the last five years. [17002]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not hold the requested information for Wales. Information relating to Wales is available from the Welsh Assembly Government.

Free Schools

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the name is of each group or organisation which has applied to set up a free school. [16117]

Mr Gibb: The names of the first 16 free school proposals that have been approved to progress to the business case and plan stage can be found on the Department's website at

http://www.education.gov.uk/news/news/wms-freeschoolsproposals

As other proposals are approved to progress to the business case and plan stage their details will be published on the Department's website.

Higher Education

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what support his Department plans to make available to schools seeking to become *(a)* university technology colleges and *(b)* technical academies. [17375]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* Technical academies are the same as the university technical colleges model which we have been developing with Lord Baker and the Baker Dearing Trust.

My officials are working with the Baker Dearing Trust and sponsors helping to develop their proposals. Once proposals have been approved my officials will discuss with each sponsor the level of support required.

Higher Education: Sports

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools his Department initially designated as specialist sports colleges as a result of the most recent round of applications. [17376]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* 17 schools were initially designated as specialist sports colleges, and a further two schools were designated with a sports specialism in combination with another specialism, in the most recent round of applications.

Home Education

Penny Mordaunt: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what his policy is on home education; and if he will make a statement. [17939]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* The Government respect the right of parents to educate their children at home. We recognise that most home educating parents do a very good job, some of them picking up the pieces where their children have had problems at school.

Our policy on home education is being considered and we will announce further details in due course. We will consider whether changes need to be made to the existing arrangements, given the strong views expressed by both home educators and local authorities.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for Education when his Department plans to respond to the letters from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay of 26 July and 26 August 2010 on Building Schools for the Future funding for the Billericay School and Mayflower School. [16139]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* My noble Friend, Lord Hill of Oareford, replied on 29 September 2010.

Pupil Exclusions

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pupils subject to fixed-term exclusions in secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 800 pupils, *(b)* 800 to 1,000 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils in each year since 2000. [17892]

Mr Gibb: The requested information for 2005/06 and 2008/09 is shown in the table.

Data on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time in 2003/04 via the Termly Exclusions Survey, and via the School Census from 2005/06. For consistency, data on fixed period exclusions has been provided for the earliest and the most recent year available using School Census data. To provide data for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

State-funded secondary schools[1,2]: number and proportion of pupil enrolments[3] with fixed period exclusions by size of school[4]

In 2005/06 and 2008/09 in England

	Schools with fewer than 800 pupils[4]		*Schools with 800 to 1,000 pupils[4]*		*Schools with over 1,000 pupils[4]*	
	Number of enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions	*% of school population with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]*	*Number of enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions*	*% of school population with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]*	*Number of enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions*	*% of school population with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]*
2005/06	42,070	6.64	41,530	6.31	108,330	5.28

State-funded secondary schools[1] [2]: number and proportion of pupil enrolments[3] with fixed period exclusions by size of school[4]

In 2005/06 and 2008/09 in England

	Schools with fewer than 800 pupils[4]		*Schools with 800 to 1,000 pupils[4]*		*Schools with over 1,000 pupils[4]*	
	Number of enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions	*% of school population with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]*	*Number of enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions*	*% of school population with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]*	*Number of enrolments with one or more fixed period exclusions*	*% of school population with one or more fixed period exclusions[5]*
2008/09	40,060	6.08	37,590	5.76	90,250	4.61

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Pupil enrolments may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the year, or were registered at more than one school.

[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils taken from the January census. Schools which were not open at the January School Census have been excluded from the analysis.

[5] The number of pupil enrolments expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils as at the January School Census).

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many and what proportion of pupils in *(a)* stand alone secondary schools and *(b)* secondary departments of all-through schools have been subject to a (i) permanent and (ii) fixed-term exclusion in each year since 2000. [17898]

Mr Gibb: The requested information for 2005/06 and 2008/09 is shown in the tables.

Data on fixed period exclusions was collected for the first time in 2003/04 via the Termly Exclusions Survey, and both fixed period and permanent exclusions were collected via the School Census for the first time in 2005/06. For consistency, data has been provided for the earliest and the most recent year available using School Census data. To provide data for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

State-funded secondary schools[1] [2]: Number and proportion of pupil enrolments[3] with fixed period or permanent exclusions by type of school[4]. In 2005/06 and 2008/09. In England

All state-funded secondary schools

	Number of schools	*Number of enrolments with permanent exclusions[7]*	*Number of enrolments with fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of school population with permanent exclusions[8]*	*Percentage of school population with fixed period exclusions[8]*
2005/06	3,405	7,690	191,930	0.23	5.74
2008/09	3,361	5,440	167,890	0.17	5.13

'All through' state-funded secondary schools[5]

	Number of schools	*Number of enrolments with permanent exclusions[7]*	*Number of enrolments with fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of school population with permanent exclusions[8]*	*Percentage of school population with fixed period exclusions[8]*
2005/06	5	30	230	0.45	4.03
2008/09	14	30	910	0.20	5.76

Other state-funded secondary schools[6]

	Number of schools	*Number of enrolments with permanent exclusions[7]*	*Number of enrolments with fixed period exclusions*	*Percentage of school population with permanent exclusions[8]*	*Percentage of school population with fixed period exclusions[8]*
2005/06	3,400	7,660	191,700	0.23	5.74
2008/09	3,347	5,410	166,980	0.17	5.13

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Pupil enrolments may be counted more than once if they moved schools during the year, or were registered at more than one school.

[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils taken from the January census. Schools which were not open at the January census have been excluded from the analysis.

[5] 'All through' schools have been defined as those state-funded secondary schools with one or more pupil aged 3, 4 or 5, and one or more pupil aged 15, 16, 17 or 18 as at the January census. Schools which were not open at the January School Census have been excluded from the analysis.

[6] State-funded secondary schools which are not defined as 'all through'.

[7] Data is as returned by schools.

[8] The number of pupil enrolments expressed as a percentage of the number (headcount) of pupils (excluding dually registered pupils) as at the January School Census.

Note:

Pupil enrolment numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Pupils: Absenteeism

Charlotte Leslie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what estimate he has made of the number and proportion of pupils recorded as having days of unauthorised absence in secondary schools with *(a)* fewer than 800 pupils, *(b)* 800 to 1,000 pupils and *(c)* more than 1,000 pupils in each year since 2000. [17891]

Mr Gibb: The requested information for 2005/06 and 2008/09 is shown in the table.

Pupil absence has been collected at school level in secondary schools since 2005/06. Information relating to the number of pupils with unauthorised absence is not available prior to this date.

To provide data for further years would incur disproportionate cost.

State-funded secondary schools[1, 2]: Number and proportion of enrolments[3] with unauthorised absence by size of school[4]. In 2005/06 and 2008/09. In England

	Schools with fewer than 800 pupils[4]			Schools with 800 to 1,000 pupils[4]			Schools with over 1,000 pupils[4]		
	Number of enrolments with unauthorised absence	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments with unauthorised absence	Number of enrolments with unauthorised absence	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments with unauthorised absence	Number of enrolments with unauthorised absence	Number of enrolments	Percentage of enrolments with unauthorised absence
2005/06	196,310	626,330	31.34	198,450	618,020	32.11	589,500	1,811,590	32.54
2008/09	222,340	646,730	34.38	219,890	610,080	36.04	578,270	1,697,520	34.07

[1] Includes middle schools as deemed.

[2] Includes city technology colleges and academies.

[3] Number of pupil enrolments in schools. Includes pupils on the school roll for at least one session who are aged between 5 and 15, excluding boarders. Some pupils may be counted more than once (if they moved schools during the school year or are registered in more than one school).

[4] Headcount of solely registered pupils taken from the January census. Schools which were not open at the January census have been excluded from the analysis.

Note:

Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 10.

Source:

School Census

Schools: Advisory Services

Stewart Hosie: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much his Department has paid Ten Lifestyle Management for providing information and support services to school leaders in England in each year since 2005; [17034]

(2) whether his Department holds information on *(a)* the number of (i) schools which subscribed to the key information and support services and (ii) school leaders who used those services in each year since 2005 and *(b)* payments by schools for those services in each such year. [17035]

Tim Loughton: The Department has not made any direct payment to Ten Lifestyle Management (TLM) for its delivery of The Key. The Key was established as a pilot service to support school leaders in May 2007 with initial set up taking place in late 2005. It was developed and managed by TLM under contract to the Training and Development Agency for Schools (TDA); a non-departmental public body of the Department.

In the period September 2005 to April 2009 TDA made payments to TLM totalling £4,867,399.

From June 2007 to July 2008, the service was available to 1,000 schools, and it was extended to a further 400 schools in its pilot state until March 2009 when the pilot scheme ended.

Following the end of the pilot and to secure value from the public investment already made, the TDA licensed its then Intellectual Property Right (IPR) for an annual fee for a period of three years (the first year being 1 September 2009 to 31 August 2010) and then an annual royalty based on the profits derived from the system by TLM for a further five years. Subject to this licensing arrangement, TLM have continued to provide the service, operating under a subscription fee system.

During the pilot period, the service was provided free of charge to schools. The Department does not hold detailed information about the number of school leaders who have used the scheme or the amount of payments made for its services. Neither the TDA nor the Department has information on fees charged to date. This information may be available annually in due course in accordance with the terms of the IPR licence.

Schools: Buildings

Bill Esterson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to ensure that school buildings may not *(a)* exceed a specified temperature in summer and *(b)* fall below a specified temperature in winter. [16333]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 11 October 2010]:* Minimum temperatures for classrooms, gymnasia and corridors are given in the Education (School Premises) Regulations, SI No2, 1999. The minimum temperature given for classroom areas is 18°C.

There is no requirement under the regulations for a maximum summertime temperature. However, the Workplace (Health, Safety and Welfare) Regulations 1992 apply to spaces where teachers teach and these include general requirements on reasonable temperatures which are supported by guidance in the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) code of practice on the regulations.

Comprehensive guidance on the ventilation of buildings and the avoidance of overheating in schools is available in Building Bulletin 101 'Ventilation of school Buildings' which can be downloaded from:

www.teachernet.gov.uk/iaq

The Department for Education, together with the Health Protection Agency, has also issued guidance on the operative, management and buildings measures that can be taken to avoid the risk from overheating in existing schools.

The Government are currently reviewing these requirements for schools including the Building/School Premises Regulations and design requirements as part of its wider review on the future of schools capital, as announced by the Secretary of State on 5 July.

Schools: Lancashire

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how many schools in Lancashire have *(a)* applied for and *(b)* been granted academy status. [17462]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* Six schools in Lancashire have applied for academy status. Five of these schools have received an academy order, enabling them to progress to the next stage. No schools in Lancashire have yet converted to academy status.

Schools: Transport

Tom Blenkinsop: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what representations he has received on the merits of subsidising transport for low income students to encourage them to take up preferential places at academy and free schools. [16910]

Mr Gibb: We have not received any representations on the merits of subsidising transport for low income pupils to encourage them to take up preferential places at academy and free schools.

Schools: Uniforms

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education if he will take steps to regulate the making of exclusive agreements between schools and suppliers of school uniforms; and if he will make a statement. [16623]

Mr Gibb: There is no legislation that deals specifically with school uniform. Although governing bodies are responsible for deciding whether there should be a school uniform and how it should be sourced, guidance by the Department for Education makes clear that governing bodies should keep the cost of uniform under review, and be able to demonstrate that best value has been achieved. Governing bodies are also asked to ensure that the uniform chosen is widely available in high street shops, other retail outlets and internet suppliers, rather than from an expensive sole supplier. This guidance is reinforced in the School Admissions Code, that schools should not seek to operate as sole suppliers in order to raise funds through the sale of school uniforms, and to ensure that their policies and practices do not disadvantage any children.

Teachers: Training

Mr Blunkett: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what timetable he has set for approving the number of teacher training places to be provided for 2011-12; how many such places were available for 2010-11; and if he will make a statement. [17187]

Mr Gibb: The Department is expecting to make an announcement of the number of initial teacher training places for 2011-12 by the end of December 2010. The Department has asked the Training and Development Agency for Schools to recruit to 35,480 places for 2010-11.

Young People: Vocational Training

Mary Macleod: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to ensure the quality of future vocational training programmes for young people. [17272]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* The Secretary of State has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. Professor Wolf will consider the organisation, funding, and target audience for vocational education, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods. She will report in spring 2011, and her findings will inform future developments to improve the standard of vocational education for 14 to 19-year-olds.

In addition, we will publish the Specification of Apprenticeship Standards for England (SASE) under statutory order later this year which will ensure all apprenticeship programmes must:

be developed against National Occupational Standards (NOS);

offer a balance of on and off-the-job guided learning; and

lead to nationally recognised qualifications.

JUSTICE

Arrest Warrants

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what progress he has made on his proposals to amend the law on prosecutions for universal jurisdiction offences. [20925]

Mr Blunt: As my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor (Mr Clarke) announced in a written ministerial statement on 22 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 47WS, the Government intend to bring before Parliament at the first opportunity a legislative amendment requiring the consent of the Director of Public Prosecutions before an arrest warrant can be issued to a private prosecutor in respect of an offence of universal jurisdiction.

Attorney-General: Sentencing

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to review powers of the Attorney-General under the Criminal Justice Act 1988 in respect of lenient sentences; and if he will make a statement. [21017]

Mr Blunt: The powers of the Attorney-General to refer certain Crown court sentences to the Court of Appeal on the grounds of undue leniency are working well. The coalition Government are following the practice of successive governments to keep the scheme under review by dealing with any proposals to add individual either way offences to the scheme on their own merits.

Coroners: Suicide

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the merits of ensuring that coroners record whether someone who commits suicide had a terminal condition. [20862]

Mr Djanogly: At the end of an inquest, coroners use either a range of short form verdicts—for example, accidental death, industrial disease, natural causes, suicide—or, in a small number of complex cases, narrative verdicts, which usually describe the circumstances as well as the cause of the death. In addition to providing information to the bereaved family concerned, and to enable a death to be formally registered, these verdicts are used by statisticians so that trends in causes of deaths can be recorded and reported, and any trends in public mortality identified and action taken where appropriate. To introduce further subsets of the short form verdict might cause practical difficulties for the recording function which can be tackled only at considerable expense. However, in taking forward the changes to the coroner system outlined in my written statement of 14 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-38WS, we shall be considering the secondary legislation and guidance which governs inquests, and this matter will be considered as part of that work.

Courts: Closures

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on the rate of non-appearance by *(a)* witnesses and *(b)* defendants of the implementation of his Department's proposed programme of court closures in (i) Staffordshire and (ii) England. [20586]

Mr Djanogly: I am not aware of any evidence to suggest that cost of travel or travel distance to court is a significant cause of defendants or witnesses failing to appear. Defendants and witnesses are expected to attend court when summoned and courts may take into account travel considerations when listing cases. Her Majesty's Courts Service will make use of flexible listing practices to minimise the potential impact of any court closures on increased travel times to court.

Ministry of Justice economists are currently working on the provision of area wide impact assessments that will provide a full assessment of the costs and benefits of each closure. These will include an assessment of the travel impact on court users. We intend to publish the impact assessments alongside the consultations responses, by the end of the year.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what estimate he has made of the savings to Her Majesty's Courts Service arising from the proposed programme of court closures. [20619]

Mr Djanogly: As I stated in my reply to this question during my appearance before the Justice Committee on 19 October, estimated savings, assuming closure of all 157 courts included in the proposals, are in the region of £15 million. These savings come from the operating costs associated with each of the courts on which we are consulting, and do not include staffing, judicial and non-cash costs.

I would also add that this figure takes into account an estimated £4 million increase in variable running costs, such as utilities, at neighbouring courts as workload increases following transfer of work from the closing court.

Ministry of Justice economists are currently working on the provision of area-wide impact assessments that will provide a full assessment of the costs and benefits of each closure. We intend to publish the impact assessments alongside the consultations responses, by the end of the year.

Criminal Proceedings: Females

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to appoint a ministerial champion for women in the criminal justice system. [21193]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: We currently have no plans to appoint a ministerial champion for women in the criminal justice system within the Ministry of Justice. My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for the Home Department is the ministerial lead on women and equalities for Government. My hon. Friend the Under-Secretary of State for Justice the hon. Member for Reigate (Mr Blunt) has recently had discussions with the Minister for Equalities on the needs of women offenders. The Government are committed to diverting women away from crime and tackling women's offending. We are taking forward an approach to provide effective alternatives to remands for the courts with new women's enhanced bail provision and effective community sentences using the expertise of the voluntary sector through Women's Community Projects. The aim is to meet the distinct and complex needs of women which are linked to their offending.

Family Courts: Bassetlaw

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many family cases at Worksop family court involved parties living in rural Bassetlaw in *(a)* 2008 and *(b)* 2009. [20463]

Mr Djanogly: Statistics on family cases for the combined Worksop and Retford family proceedings court are collated centrally by HMCS on an aggregate basis.

Information is not available centrally on the residence of the parties involved, or for Worksop family court separately. This information can be obtained only by analysis of each individual case file which would be possible only at disproportionate costs.

Freedom of Information: Public Expenditure

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what information his Department holds on the organisations which receive *(a)* 50% or more, *(b)* 75% or more and *(c)* 90% or more of their income from the public purse and which are not public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. [21216]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice does not maintain a list of bodies funded *(a)* 50% or more, *(b)* 75% or more or *(c)* 90% or more of their income from the public purse and which are not public authorities for the purposes of the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

Over 100,000 public authorities are currently subject to the Act. These are either listed in Schedule 1 of the Act, or covered under section 6 as "publicly owned companies" that are wholly owned by the Crown or a public authority listed in Schedule 1.

The Government are considering a range of options to increase transparency, including extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to additional public authorities. The Government will announce their intentions in due course

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will assess the merits of amending the definition of bodies subject to the provisions of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to include organisations which receive 50 per cent. or more of their annual funding from the public purse. [21218]

Mr Djanogly: The Government are considering a range of options to increase transparency, including extending the scope of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 to additional public authorities. The Government will announce their intentions in due course.

Ian Tomlinson

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what assessment he has made of the effects of holding the inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson in the City of London on the timing and cost of the inquest. [21066]

Mr Djanogly: The Ministry of Justice has responsibility for coroner law and policy, but no operational role in the arrangements for inquests. The arrangements for the inquest into the death of Ian Tomlinson are solely for the City of London coroner and his local authority. It is, however, a current legal requirement that an inquest is held within the district of the coroner who has jurisdiction.

Legal Aid: Crime

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what his Department's budget is for *(a)* civil and *(b)* criminal legal aid for 2010-11. [20410]

Mr Djanogly: There are no separate budgets for civil or for criminal legal aid. Funding for legal aid is met from the overall departmental expenditure limit (DEL). However, we expect to spend around £1.1 billion this year on criminal legal aid, and about £1 billion on civil legal aid.

Magistrates Courts: Nottinghamshire

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many cases at Retford and Worksop magistrates court were adjourned owing to non-attendance of *(a)* witnesses and *(b)* defendants in (i) 2008 and (ii) 2009. [20462]

Mr Djanogly: Information is not centrally collected on all adjournments that have occurred in the magistrates courts. This information could be gathered only from court files.

However, information is available on the number of ineffective trials recorded due to non-attendance of either the witnesses or defendants. Ineffective trials are trials that do not go ahead on the scheduled day, due to action or inaction due to the defence, prosecution or court. This results in the trial being rescheduled.

Table 1 provides the number of recorded ineffective trials due to non-attendance for defendants and witnesses in recorded criminal triads for Retford and Worksop magistrates courts.

Table 1: Number of trials which were "ineffective" due to non-attendance, Retford and Worksop magistrates courts, 2008-09

		Number of ineffective trials recorded	
	Number of trials recorded	*Due to non-attendance of defendants*	*Due to non-attendance of witnesses*
2008	271	12	21
2009	387	16	14

Notes:

1. The figures correspond to trials only and exclude all non-attendance when trials did not occur.
2. Witnesses are defined as both professional, police and other witnesses for both the defence and prosecution.

Source:

Ineffective trial monitoring form, HM Court Service.

Offenders

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* statutory and *(b)* non-statutory bodies dealing with offenders on the re-settlement of offenders; and if he will make a statement. [20921]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: I have met with a wide range of statutory and non-statutory bodies over recent weeks to develop proposals for the rehabilitation and sentencing Green Paper. The re-settlement of offenders, including the impact of successfully finding accommodation and employment upon release from custody and its role in reducing reoffending, has been discussed at many of these meetings. We acknowledge the importance of this matter and will set out our proposals in this area in the forthcoming Green Paper.

Offenders: Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many offenders in each prison establishment were on each level of the Incentives and Earned Privilege Scheme *(a)* on the most recent date for which details are available and *(b)* 12 months prior to that date; and if he will make a statement. [20408]

Mr Blunt: The aim of the IEP scheme is to allow prisoners to earn additional privileges through responsible behaviour, participation in hard work and other constructive activity. Additional privileges will be removed if prisoners fail to maintain acceptable standards. Governors have devolved responsibility to draw up their own IEP schemes although the scheme must operate on at least three tiers: Basic, Standard and Enhanced.

At the end of September 2010 and for the same period 12 months ago, the total number of prisoners in each prison establishment on the minimum three levels of the Incentives and Earned Privileges Scheme were as follows:

	September 2010			*September 2009*		
Prison Name	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*
Acklington	7	459	414	3	522	409
Albany	5	243	316	1	227	331
Altcourse	49	682	497	60	676	559
Ashfield	55	199	51	53	178	57
Ashwell	0	38	175	0	61	136
Askham Grange	0	25	101	0	37	86
Aylesbury	19	250	170	8	282	150
Bedford	6	387	94	3	406	73
Belmarsh	22	825	121	14	771	95
Birmingham	4	1,068	357	9	1,092	303
Blantyre House	0	0	121	0	0	121
Blundeston	3	235	280	7	246	263
Brinsford	9	342	173	9	358	174
Bristol	7	442	139	10	435	156
Brixton	7	612	140	8	636	94
Bronzefield	4	361	128	3	337	94
Buckley Hall	7	115	254	2	149	234
Bullingdon	15	779	260	7	755	301

	September 2010			*September 2009*		
Prison Name	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*	*Basic*	*Standard*	*Enhanced*
Bullwood Hall	0	120	107	0	116	108
Bure	4	227	282	n/a	n/a	n/a
Camp Hill	7	222	358	3	269	302
Canterbury	1	173	130	3	182	121
Cardiff	6	627	184	9	550	245
Castington	0	59	23	8	351	142
Channings Wood	6	301	415	6	305	404
Chelmsford	21	491	171	16	0	145
Coldingley	4	168	334	1	220	260
Cookham Wood	18	85	31	12	63	22
Dartmoor	2	221	285	14	298	288
Deerbolt	12	394	86	4	410	84
Doncaster	23	865	212	11	793	220
Dorchester	1	181	39	2	154	61
Dovegate	8	585	557	6	393	625
Downview	2	131	191	1	167	178
Drake Hall	3	78	208	0	106	182
Durham	8	706	206	1	748	226
East Sutton Park	0	0	90	0	0	93
Eastwood Park	4	208	107	7	176	126
Edmunds Hill	6	207	166	3	219	151
Elmley	15	830	329	16	722	204
Erlestoke	2	88	277	2	109	343
Everthorpe	15	262	402	7	283	389
Exeter	9	413	95	5	402	120
Featherstone	12	293	348	10	275	360
Feltham	35	508	121	12	529	101
Ford	0	158	380	0	159	388
Forest Bank	29	942	376	33	856	262
Foston Hall	7	130	101	2	164	70
Frankland	33	319	466	19	305	379
Full Sutton	10	196	373	9	208	356
Garth	7	205	626	4	224	599
Gartree	4	97	569	5	134	528
Glen Parva	42	534	145	38	638	122
Gloucester	2	222	86	0	238	75
Grendon	0	23	503	0	26	490
Guys Marsh	5	262	239	11	277	281
Haverigg	20	174	441	11	198	400
Hewell	6	974	401	9	954	369
High Down	11	815	237	11	834	216
Highpoint	22	402	516	18	384	525
Hindley	20	213	79	28	228	79
Hollesley Bay	2	55	298	1	80	272
Holloway	5	342	111	6	362	62
Holme House	6	798	173	6	748	194
Hull	25	601	352	8	540	381
Kennet	3	96	230	2	142	194
Kingston	0	14	184	2	16	156
Kirkham	0	70	507	1	106	479
Kirklevington	0	231	38	0	61	219
Lancaster	1	120	118	1	117	114
Lancaster Farms	14	325	151	8	325	157
Latchmere House	0	0	202	0	1	195
Leeds	3	791	239	7	857	230
Leicester	10	225	121	3	281	83
Lewes	3	340	118	11	497	141
Leyhill	0	97	415	0	109	386
Lincoln	7	412	182	8	479	173
Lindholme	14	372	602	9	404	559
Littlehey	16	666	407	1	399	311
Liverpool	8	970	246	11	1,087	207
Long Lartin	7	302	305	4	317	296
Low Newton	5	149	62	3	182	82
Lowdham Grange	15	123	787	20	114	551
Maidstone	0	207	386	0	234	359
Manchester	14	816	342	30	907	293
Moorland (Closed)	14	483	281	25	465	273
Moorland (Open)	0	35	213	0	42	196
Morton Hall	1	198	107	1	118	220
Mount	14	264	483	14	259	477
New Hall	18	227	126	14	210	153
North Sea Camp	2	17	293	0	87	224
Northallerton	6	145	42	4	190	44
Norwich	14	576	140	8	574	55
Nottingham	17	835	193	14	422	107
Onley	20	234	437	16	319	357
Parc	20	682	415	20	770	379
Parkhurst	13	171	334	9	190	324
Pentonville	23	908	277	10	967	239
Peterborough (Female)	5	246	83	10	227	69
Peterborough (Male)	37	461	109	23	455	126
Portland	12	277	172	17	284	240
Preston	13	581	174	4	562	177
Ranby	13	466	576	27	536	510
Reading	0	132	82	3	107	127
Risley	30	500	557	23	511	522
Rochester	17	444	215	15	527	160
Rye Hill	8	148	442	11	175	467
Send	3	67	204	0	79	191
Shepton Mallet	0	7	178	0	7	182
Shrewsbury	1	178	134	4	187	94
Stafford	3	332	394	2	376	257
Standford Hill	1	83	357	0	37	388
Stocken	15	419	399	5	395	493
Stoke Heath	27	390	152	35	448	144
Styal	5	304	111	5	290	114
Sudbury	3	50	518	1	48	520
Swaleside	26	309	750	16	263	546
Swansea	3	315	106	2	279	105
Swinfen Hall	14	252	354	26	264	324
Thorn Cross	7	87	197	6	109	173
Usk/ Prescoed	0	99	329	0	118	294
Verne	10	171	420	7	163	418
Wakefield	21	392	327	9	389	347
Wandsworth	16	1,252	346	12	1,134	435
Warren Hill	19	94	62	14	93	82
Wayland	19	499	478	8	514	483
Wealstun	6	331	402	6	203	311
Wellingborough	7	229	279	1	328	313

Prison Name	September 2010			September 2009		
	Basic	Standard	Enhanced	Basic	Standard	Enhanced
Wellington	16	64	29	10	85	37
Wetherby	12	220	90	12	206	130
Wharton	3	252	565	2	287	521
Whitemoor	3	151	295	5	169	268
Winchester	5	528	158	0	484	194
Wolds	1	111	278	2	103	282
Woodhill	17	610	170	6	589	218
Wormwood Scrubs	3	1,064	191	3	1,030	215
Wymott	4	632	519	3	678	454
Totals	1,386	46,815	36,202	1,166	46,552	34,258

Prisons: Food

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will take steps to increase the proportion of domestically produced food supplied to prisons under contracts negotiated by the National Offender Management Service. [20575]

Mr Blunt: The Ministry of Justice does not have targets for domestically produced food at the present time.

The MOJ is working with the Department for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) and other Government Departments who form part of the Government's strategy for sustainable farming and food. This is intended to encourage the public sector to procure food in a manner that promotes sustainable development and does not discriminate against local and UK suppliers.

Where United Kingdom supplies can meet the specifications set by the Prison Service, the Ministry of Justice will avail of these products wherever this can be achieved without increasing overall costs. The Department is working closely with the supply base to further increase the volume of home grown food used within prisons when compliant with specifications and within budget.

Probation Service: Mental Health

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what steps the probation service is taking to meet the needs of offenders with mental health conditions; and if he will make a statement. [19705]

Paul Burstow: I have been asked to reply.

The probation service is reviewing the content of and training for the offender assessment system to improve the identification of offenders with mental health problems. Residents of approved premises access health care in the same way as the rest of the population.

Restraint Techniques

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what the membership of the Physical Control in Care *(a)* Management and *(b)* Medical Panel Board was in each year since 2004; what professional (i) qualifications, (ii) experience and (iii) affiliations each member had; on what dates the management board has met since 2004; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the minutes of each such meeting. [20217]

Mr Blunt: The Physical Control in Care Management Board met on 5 November 2007, 26 February 2008, 9 June 2008 and 10 December 2008. Membership of the board was made up of officials from the Home Office, Ministry of Justice, Department for Children, Schools and Families, Department of Health, Ofsted, Northern Ireland Office and the Youth Justice Board. The board was chaired by Ministers from both the Ministry of Justice and the Department for Children, Schools and Families. The minutes of these meetings are policy-restricted.

The Physical Control in Care Medical Panel Board has produced two reports both of which are in the public domain. The first in 2005 and the second in 2007. All Members that served on the board and their professional backgrounds are listed in the following table.

Name	*Occupation*
Professor Susan Bailey	Consultant Child and Adolescent Forensic Psychiatrist, Prestwich Hospital
Dr Heather Payne	Consultant Paediatrician in Community Child Health, Ysprad Mynach Hospital
Barry Walker	Aycliffe Secure Services (secure children's home)
James Hunter	Consultant Trauma and Paediatric Orthopaedic Surgeon, Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham
Dr Mike Lindsay	Senior Professional Adviser (Children's Rights), National Care Standards Commission
Steve Hart	National Lead Inspector, Commission for Social Care Inspection
Dr Richard Barnett	Physiotherapist
Dr Christophe Bradish	Orthopaedic Surgeon

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice (1) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences related to non-payment of council tax in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21232]

(2) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences of robbery in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21233]

(3) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences related to carrying out unauthorised works to a listed building in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21234]

(4) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences of television licence evasion in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21235]

(5) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences of criminal damage in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21236]

(6) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences of arson in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21237]

(7) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences of trespass in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21238]

(8) how many people squatting in premises were prosecuted for offences relating to using utilities without contacting the suppliers in respect of those premises in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; [21239]

(9) how many people were prosecuted for breaking and entering where their apparent purpose was to squat in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and how many of these had previously been subject to an anti-social behaviour order. [21240]

Mr Blunt: Data held centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the Court Proceedings Database do not contain information about the circumstances behind each case, beyond the description provided in the statute under which proceedings are brought. It is therefore not possible to separately identify whether offences were committed by squatters for: non-payment of council tax; robbery; carrying out unauthorised works to a listed building; television licence evasion; criminal damage; arson; trespass; or using utilities without contacting the suppliers. Similarly it is not possible to separately identify those persons prosecuted for burglary whose apparent purpose was to squat.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

AgustaWestland: Government Assistance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what discussions his Department has had with the South West of England Regional Development Agency on the financial assistance proposed to be provided to AgustaWestland in the Spending Review; [21403]

(2) what representations he has received on the financial assistance proposed to be provided to AgustaWestland in the Spending Review. [21404]

Mr Prisk: Since 2009, the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills has had a number of discussions with the South West of England Regional Development Agency and other interested parties about possible support for AgustaWestland. Since the election, the Secretary of State has received representations on the future of the UK's rotorcraft industry from the management of AgustaWestland, and its parent company Finmeccanica. In addition, he has also had representations from the right hon. Member for Yeovil (David Laws) in his capacity as the constituency MP.

Aimhigher Scheme

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent evaluation of the Aimhigher scheme his Department has undertaken; and if he will make a statement. [20634]

Mr Willetts: Research undertaken by the National Foundation for Educational Excellence (NFER) for HEFCE was published in October 2009. It examined the impact of Excellence Challenge (Aimhigher's predecessor) on the probability of entering higher education for young people who experienced Excellence Challenge in 2001/02, the first year of the scheme. It found that:

Young people from schools with Excellence Challenge with only average levels of attainment at GCSE were more likely than their academic peers from schools without Excellence Challenge to take up a higher education place.

Young people in receipt of Free School Meals were more likely to have progressed to higher education if they attended a school with Excellence Challenge than if they attended a school without Excellence Challenge. For the 2001/02 cohort, this equated to one additional higher education entrant for every 100 young people eligible for Free

School Meals.

More recent research was published in August 2010. It examined local evaluation conducted by Aimhigher partnerships and made three key findings:

Some Aimhigher participants had improved outcomes in terms of raised aspirations, raised attainment and improved progression.

High levels of learner enjoyment and an increased learner interest in entering higher education.

Involvement with Aimhigher was associated with higher than predicted attainment at GCSE and greater confidence among learners that they were able to achieve.

Charity Research Support Fund

Dan Rogerson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what level of funding will be provided to the Charity Research Support Fund in each year of the Spending Review 2010 period; and if he will make a statement. [21069]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 November 2010]*: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave on 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 866-67W, to the hon. Member for North Tyneside (Mrs Glindon).

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20689]

Mr Prisk: Population data were used as a factor shaping funding allocations to regional development agencies following spending review 2007 and before. Allocations to RDAs following conclusion of spending review 2010 will be determined shortly but are likely to be based on the levels of legal commitment and anticipated closure costs.

Employment Schemes: Merseyside

Esther McVey: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many *(a)* women and *(b)* employers in Merseyside have taken part in the women and work sector skills pathway initiative. [20968]

Mr Hayes: Between April 2009 and March 2010 68 employers and 279 women from the north-west of England participated in the women and work programme. Data are not available at a sub-regional or constituency level.

European Regional Development Fund

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the future management of funds allocated from the European Regional Development Fund following the ending of regional development agencies. [20413]

Mr Prisk: There have been no meetings specifically scheduled between the Secretary of State Business, Innovation and Skills and the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government to discuss the future management of ERDF funds following the decision to close the Regional Development Agencies.

Green Investment Bank

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the revenue likely to accrue to the Green Investment Bank from the sale of each additional significant asset referred to in the national infrastructure plan. [21292]

Mr Prisk: To give information on expected proceeds from individual asset sales would prejudice the Government's commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, at an aggregate level, the Government are confident that the asset sales it is considering will be sufficient to provide significant additional funding above the £1 billion allocated to the Green Investment Bank from departmental budgets. It will make further announcements on this funding stream in due course.

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much funding from each source he expects to be available for the Green Investment Bank in each of the next five years. [21293]

Mr Prisk: As announced in the spending review, the Green Investment Bank will be funded by £1 billion from departmental budgets, and additional significant proceeds of asset sales. The former funding source is for spend in 2013-14. The Government are not able to provide details of the latter funding source as to do so would prejudice the commercial position in ongoing and future sale processes. However, it is anticipated that the use of these proceeds should mean funding for the Green Investment Bank will not be limited to 2013-14, and should be available before that time.

Higher Education Funding Council

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding the Higher Education Funding Council plans to allocate from its quality-related grant to the Quality Research Support Fund in 2011-12. [20701]

Mr Willetts: In the recent spending review, my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government will spend £4.6 billion on science and research programmes in each of the next four years within a ring-fenced budget. Capital and administration spending on science and research have not yet been decided.

In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between individual research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programmes. Decisions on detailed allocations and specific projects will be taken by research councils, in line with the Haldane Principle, and HEFCE, within its statutory independence.

Higher Education: Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent reports he has received on incidents of Jewish students at universities in London being targeted by Islamic extremists; and if he will make a statement. [20243]

Mr Willetts: I have received no reports of incidents of Jewish students attending universities in London being targeted by Islamic extremists. The broader issue of the treatment of Jewish students was discussed at a recent meeting I held with John Mann, the Community Security Trust, the Union of Jewish Students, Universities UK and the Equality Challenge Unit.

There is no place for racism of any form, including anti-Semitism, in higher education. Universities have access to a strong legislative framework and guidance to help them deal effectively with instances of intolerance, racism and harassment in their institutions. Government would expect them to vigorously tackle these issues when they arise and has supported institutions with key guidance on promoting good campus relations in the sector.

Higher Education: Disadvantaged

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what change there has been in the rate of participation in higher education by those living in disadvantaged areas since 2004; and if he will make a statement. [20635]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) estimates that 19% of young people (aged 18 or 19) from low participation neighbourhoods in England entered higher education in the 2009/10 academic year. This compares with 15% in 2004/05, an increase of 4 percentage points.

This information is taken from the HEFCE report, 'Trends in young participation in higher education: core results for England', which was published in January 2010. The key findings of the report and the full report can be found at this link:

http://www.hefce.ac.uk/pubs/hefce/2010/10_03

Higher Education: Durham

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in *(a)* North West Durham constituency, *(b)* the north-east and *(c)* England entered (i) higher education and (ii) university in each of the last 13 years. [20859]

Mr Willetts: The latest information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. Comparable figures for entrants to higher education level courses at further education colleges are not available.

Undergraduate entrants from North West Durham parliamentary constituency[1], North East Government office region and England UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 1996/97 to 2008/09

Number

Academic year	*North West Durham*	*North East*	*England*
1996/97	510	19,575	371,210

Undergraduate entrants from North West Durham parliamentary constituency[1], North East Government office region and England UK higher education institutions[2], academic years 1996/97 to 2008/09

Number

Academic year	*North West Durham*	*North East*	*England*
1997/98	535	20,790	377,855
1998/99	535	19,485	402,240
1999/2000	590	19,885	401,345
2000/01	570	20,840	398,700
2001/02	655	21,890	423,965
2002/03	655	24,565	440,520
2003/04	680	24,665	446,045
2004/05	700	23,550	446,695
2005/06	760	25,690	462,950
2006/07	765	26,320	442,645
2007/08	695	25,265	460,290
2008/09	790	28,390	481,935

[1] Excludes students whose constituency could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information. [2] Excludes the Open university due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series. *Note:* Figures are based on a 1 December snapshot and have been rounded to the nearest five. *Source:* Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA).

Higher Education: Finance

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial impact assessment his Department undertook on the decision to reduce the funding available for teaching in higher education institutions; and what estimate his Department has made of the number of higher education *(a)* institutions, *(b)* departments and *(c)* courses likely to close as a result of this decision. [21341]

Mr Willetts: We will announce the level of higher education funding for academic year 2011-12, including the teaching grant, to the Higher Education Funding Council for England (HEFCE) in its annual grant letter by January 2011. Before bringing forward our proposals for changes to the funding system from academic year 2012-13 to Parliament, we will complete a full assessment of the impact of these changes. We will make this available alongside draft legislation. The Government will undertake a further impact assessment of any wider changes proposed as a result of a higher education White Paper reviewing the framework for HE, and this will be published alongside the White Paper in the winter.

Regarding an estimate of effects on higher education institutions (HEIs), departments and courses, I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave to the hon. Member for Middlesbrough South and East Cleveland (Tom Blenkinsop) on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 135W.

Higher Education: Private Sector

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he has had with *(a)* US-based and *(b)* other private providers of higher education in England; and if he will make a statement. [21078]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* I met with US-based provider Laureate on 15 September. Additionally, the Secretary of State, the Minister of State for Further Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning and I met with BPP University College of Professional Studies, as a part of a wider meeting with representatives of the higher education sector, on 12 July.

The Government want to make it easier for new providers who can offer excellent teaching and a high quality experience for students to enter the higher education sector. However, this is one of a number of institutional issues in the wake of Lord Browne's independent review of higher education and student finance which requires thorough debate and consultation. We intend therefore to publish a higher education White Paper with detailed proposals to which experts from the sector can react, leading, subject to parliamentary time, to a higher education Bill.

Housing: Construction

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to bring forward proposals to reduce the regulatory burden on businesses in the house-building sector. [20868]

Andrew Stunell: I have been asked to reply.

The Government are committed to reducing the regulatory burden on businesses in the house building sector.

We have abolished HIPs and we are working with the industry to develop an approach to zero carbon homes which balances mitigating the carbon burdens from new development with ensuring the viability of development.

We have adopted a Government-wide "one in, one out" approach to new regulatory burdens across the economy as a whole, and in the spending review we announced that we will reduce the total regulatory burden on the house building industry in England over the spending review period. We will be seeking to work across Government Departments to put in place the mechanisms to achieve this.

I have already initiated a review of the building regulations, to consider options for changes to the building regulations and building control system, including the potential to deregulate. Having sought views from a wide range of interested parties, my officials are now analysing the responses and I am aiming to make a statement on this around the end of the year.

My colleague, the Minister for Housing and Local Government, has also set out his commitment to simplify the regulations for new build housing in England. My Department will be initiating discussions with interested parties shortly about how to simplify other standards (beyond building regulations).

Leukaemia: Myalgic Encephalomyelitis

Mr Tom Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the relationship between murine leukaemia virus-related virus and myalgic encephalomyelitis. [20350]

Mr Willetts: The Medical Research Council (MRC) is one of the main agencies through which the Government supports medical and clinical research. In keeping with the Haldane principle, prioritisation of an individual research council's spending within its allocation is not a decision for Ministers. Such decisions are rightly left to those best placed to evaluate the scientific quality, excellence and likely impact of scientific programmes.

The MRC is committed to supporting scientific research into all aspects of chronic fatigue syndrome/myalgic encephalomyelitis (CFS/ME), including studies into the biological basis of the condition. In 2009/10 the MRC spent £100,000 on research relating directly to CFS/ME. The Government have not commissioned nor evaluated any research on the relationship between murine leukaemia virus-related virus and CFS/ME.

Manufacturing Industries: Environment

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* grants and *(b)* other forms of assistance his Department provides to manufacturing firms wishing to improve their environmental performance (i) nationally and (ii) in Lancashire. [20855]

Mr Prisk: The information requested is as follows:

(a) BIS currently does not provide direct grants to manufacturing firms wishing to improve their environmental performance.

(b)(i) However, a number of Government Departments and funded bodies provide specialist support to help manufacturing firms cut carbon emissions, save energy and commercialise low carbon technologies. They include the Carbon Trust, funded by DECC and the Devolved Administrations, DFT, DEFRA, FCO and BIS.

(b)(ii) In Lancashire NWDA provides additional support to local businesses to help them reduce waste, become more energy efficient and generally improve their performance. This support includes the Manufacturing Advisory Service, Improving Your Resource Efficiency programme, grants for improving resource efficiency and the Environmental Advice Service.

Manufacturing Industries: Location

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what financial support from his Department is available for manufacturing firms relocating to larger premises *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Lancashire. [20069]

Mr Prisk: BIS does not currently offer financial support for relocating to larger premises. However, the north-west development agency has developed a £184 million venture capital and loan fund comprising European Regional Development Fund grant and European Investment Bank loan. The fund is due to be launched in November and will provide a range of financial support to SMEs including expanding manufacturing companies.

News Corporation: British Sky Broadcasting

Anas Sarwar: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to issue a public interest intervention in respect of the proposed acquisition of BSkyB by News Corporation. [19894]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 27 October 2010]*: The Secretary of State is aware of the proposed merger, however no transaction has yet been formally filed with the European Commission for competition clearance. If News Corporation does formally file, the Secretary of State will take a decision on whether to intervene on public interest grounds, taking account of all relevant information and the various representations he has received on the matter.

Post Office

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what his policy is on the Post Office joint venture; and if he will make a statement. [20902]

Mr Davey: We encourage Post Office Ltd. to explore joint venture opportunities with other partners where appropriate.

Post Office: Finance

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future level of subsidy to the Post Office. [20905]

Mr Davey: As announced by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 27 October, we are providing £1.34 billion of funding for the Post Office over the spending review period, enabling it to maintain and modernise the network.

Post Offices: Financial Services

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what changes to financial services offered by the Post Office he proposes to make. [20903]

Mr Davey: The Post Office already offers a wide range of financial and banking services and we are working closely with Post Office Ltd as it develops its commercial strategy, including growing revenue from financial services in order to sustain the network.

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he plans to change the banking model operated by the Post Office. [20904]

Mr Davey: As the coalition agreement made clear, we will ensure that post offices are allowed to offer a wide range of services and we are looking at the case for developing new sources of revenue, such as the creation of a Post Office bank.

Public Expenditure

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he plans to allocate to each research council in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [20870]

Mr Willetts: In the recent spending review the Chancellor announced that the Government will spend £4.6 billion on science and research programmes in each of the next four years within a ring-fenced budget. Capital and administration spending on science and research have not yet been decided.

In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between the individual research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programs. Detailed decisions on specific projects will be taken by funding bodies, in line with the Haldane principle.

Regional Development Agencies

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to minimise the cost to the public purse of winding up regional development agencies. [21432]

Mr Prisk: This Department is working with the regional development agencies to help them develop closure plans. Securing value for the taxpayer and the economy will be key considerations. High level principles governing asset disposal were set out in the local growth White Paper published on 28 October.

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps he is taking to ensure that local enterprise partnerships are operational before regional development agencies are closed. [21433]

Mr Prisk: On 28 October we announced that 24 of outline proposals for local enterprise partnerships received met the Government's expectations and have been asked to start developing their boards. Other partnerships continue to develop their proposals so they can be in a similar position. We will continue to engage with both groups of partnerships at a speed that is appropriate for them.

Regional Development Agencies: Technology Strategy Board

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much each regional development agency allocated to the Technology Strategy Board in funding in *(a)* 2008-09, *(b)* 2009-10 and *(c)* 2010-11. [21219]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board (TSB) is a non-departmental public body sponsored by the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills, and does not receive allocated funding from the regional development agencies (RDAs).

However, over recent years, the RDAs have collaborated with the TSB on a broad range of innovation and technology projects in order to strengthen the strategic and economic impact of their collective investments.

In 2008-09, the RDAs invested £101 million in projects aligned with the TSB. Details of the amount invested by each RDA are provided in the following table. In 2009-10, the RDA network was projected to also invest a further £160 million in aligned projects.

Aligned investment 2008-09

RDA	*£ million*
One NorthEast	11.26
North West Development Agency	12.62
Yorkshire Forward	6.31
East Midlands Development Agency	10.32
East of England Development Agency	7.59
Advantage West Midlands	26.83
London Development Agency	9.61
South West Regional Development Agency	4.81
South East of England Development Agency	11.80

In June 2010, the Government's emergency Budget announced that the RDA network is to be abolished and its functions transferred to other national or local organisations. The RDAs were also asked to find £270 million of savings from their programme budgets for 2010-11. As each RDA is currently determining where its respective programme savings will be made, figures for projected RDA aligned investment with the TSB for 2010-11 are unavailable at present.

Research and Development

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Government has set a target for the proportion of gross domestic product to be spent on research and development. [20705]

Mr Willetts: The latest figures available from the Office of National Statistics (ONS) show that gross expenditure on research and development is 1.8% of GDP. The Government have not set any GDP percentage targets for research and development spend.

Research Council: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding he plans to allocate to each research council in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14 in real terms based on 2010-11 prices. [20703]

Mr Willetts: In the recent spending review my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that the Government will spend £4.6 billion on science and research programmes in each of the next four years within a ring-fenced budget. Capital and administration spending on science and research have not yet been decided and are not included within the ringfence.

In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programmes. Detailed decisions on specific projects will be taken by funding bodies, in line with the Haldane principle.

Research Councils: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations his Department has received from private sector companies on funding for the research councils. [20709]

Mr Willetts: A number of senior industrialists have written to me recently. The CBI and the Council for Science and Technology represent the views of the private sector in the BIS consultations on science and research funding including the allocations process.

Science: Finance

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the difference in cash terms between maintaining the science budget in real terms and in cash terms in the period of the spending review 2010. [20554]

Mr Willetts: Resource funding for science and research has been maintained at £4,576 million for every year of the SR10 period.

The Government have protected these programmes in cash terms because they understand the vital role that science and research plays in rebalancing the economy and ensuring economic growth.

The latest Government forecasts for inflation, which were provided by the Office for Budget Responsibility and were published in the June 2010 Budget, are given in the following table:

Financial year	*Inflation rate (percentage)*
2011-12	1.95
2012-13	2.27
2013-14	2.62
2014-15	2.65

The Wakeham review identified a number of proposals for efficiency savings. The Government will be seeking implementation of these across the research base as part of the SR10 settlement.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what assessment he has made of the effects in cash terms of the freezing of the science budget on the number of scientists working in the UK. [20706]

Mr Willetts: No such assessment has been carried out. The Government have protected science and research funding. This sends a strong signal on the attractiveness of scientific careers in the UK. Additionally, implementing the efficiency savings identified by Bill Wakeham, should offset some of the effects of inflation. It will be for research councils, under the Haldane principle, and funding councils with their statutory independence, to make detailed decisions on funding.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what criteria his Department plans to use in allocating the science research budget between the research councils in 2011-12. [20708]

Mr Willetts: In the coming months, Ministers will make decisions on the balance of funding between individual research councils, HEFCE's research and knowledge transfer activities, the national academies and other programs. These decisions will be made in line with the Government's strategic priorities of funding excellence and focusing on areas with the critical mass to compete globally. Detailed decisions on specific projects will be taken by funding bodies, in line with the Haldane principle.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what forecast he has made of the rate of inflation affecting his Department's expenditure on science research in the period to 2014. [20712]

Mr Willetts: The latest Government forecasts for inflation, which were provided by the Office for Budget Responsibility and published in the June 2010 Budget, are given in the following table:

Financial year	*Inflation rate (percentage)*
2011-12	1.95
2012-13	2.27
2013-14	2.62
2014-15	2.65

The Wakeham review identified a number of proposals for efficiency savings. The Government will be seeking implementation of these across the research base as part of the SR10 settlement.

Students: Fees and Charges

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what analysis his Department has undertaken of the model for funding student fees used by *(a)* CareerConcept AG in Germany, *(b)* Lumni, Inc. in the USA, Mexico, Chile and Colombia and *(c)* Prodigy Finance Ltd in the UK. [21028]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* The Browne review considered a range of alternative models for enabling students to defer fees, including private financing options.

Chapter 7 of the Browne review, beginning on page 51, explains the review team's reasons for rejecting alternative options including private financial support. The full report is available at:

http://hereview.independent.gov.uk/hereview/report/

The Government will respond to the suggestions in the Browne review shortly.

Students: Finance

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent representations he has received on the effects on arts, humanities and social science teaching and research in universities of the implementation of the Government's proposals for university funding; and if he will make a statement. [21163]

Mr Willetts: We have received a number of representations since the publication of Lord Browne's review.

He recommended that funding for higher education should, in future, largely follow student choice. This would be supported by better information about course content and outcomes. This would allow popular and successful courses, including those in the arts, humanities and social sciences to prosper.

In the recent comprehensive spending review announcement we were able to protect science and research. We have said that we agree with the broad thrust of Lord Browne's recommendations and will respond shortly.

Technology Strategy Board

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether the Technology Strategy Board will have a role in administering technology and innovation centres. [20700]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* The overall network of centres will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board.

The Technology Strategy Board will work with industry, stakeholders, and wider government to identify the priority areas and governance structure for the elite network of Technology and Innovation Centres by April 2011.

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the long term future of the Technology Strategy Board; and if he will make a statement. [21220]

Mr Willetts: We are making the Technology Strategy Board the Government's prime channel through which we will incentivise business-led technology innovation in those sectors of the UK economy which present the greatest opportunity to boost UK growth. A business-led organisation whose staff have a combined experience of over 600 years in the private sector, the Technology Strategy Board will serve as the main delivery body for supporting business innovation.

Where there is the genuine potential for the UK to gain competitive advantage, we want to support business in translating scientific leads into leading positions in new industries. That is why we announced that over four years we will provide over £200 million of funding to establish an elite network of Technology and Innovation Centres through the Technology Strategy Board. The centres will enable industry to exploit new and emerging technologies, by providing a capability that bridges research and technology commercialisation, de-risking the process for business. This will help make new technologies investment ready and able to attract venture capital or other forms of investment, shortening the time to market. Working with industry and Government, the Technology Strategy Board will develop a strategy and implementation plan for the elite network of centres by April 2011.

Support for these centres, together with support for R&D, knowledge transfer, and demonstrators will enable the Technology Strategy Board to support and incentivise all stages of technology development.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funds will be allocated to the Technology Strategy Board in each year of the comprehensive spending review period. [20699]

Mr Willetts: *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* Following the spending review, the allocations process in BIS will determine the Technology Strategy Board budget for the CSR period, including the annual allocation. The allocations process will begin soon.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what funding his Department channelled through regional development agencies for projects which the Technology Strategy Board was also funding in 2007-10. [20707]

Mr Prisk: In 2008/09, the regional development agencies (RDAs) invested £101 million in innovation and technology projects aligned with the Technology Strategy Board (TSB). In 2009/10, the RDAs were projected to also invest a further £160 million in aligned projects.

This aligned investment was undertaken in response to the publication of Lord Sainsbury's 'The Race to the Top' report in October 2007, which recommended closer RDA collaboration with the TSB to strengthen the strategic and economic impact of their collective investments.

The RDA and TSB co-investment covered a wide range of projects and programmes including the development and funding of recognised centres of expertise; provision of demonstrator facilities to accelerate the take-up of new technologies; financial support to expand the number of knowledge transfer partnerships; and activity to increase business awareness and participation in knowledge transfer networks.

A breakdown of aligned investment by each RDA, and a range of co-investment case studies, is provided in the TSB's 'Accelerating Business Innovation Across the UK' report published in February 2010. The report can be found at:

http://www.innovateuk.org/content/news/new-innovation-report-shows-benefit-to-business-of.ashx

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what Government funding the Technology Strategy Board received in *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10; and how much it will receive in 2010-11. [21221]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board received Government funding of £208 million in 2008/09 and £385 million in 2009/10. It is due to receive a total of £363 million in 2010/11.

These figures comprise of core funding from this Department plus co-funding received from other Government Departments for specific Technology Strategy Board activities.

Technology: Facilities

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what *(a)* methodology and *(b)* criteria he plans to use to determine the locations of technology and innovation centres. [20773]

Mr Willetts *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* The overall network of centres will be established and overseen by the Technology Strategy Board and will be based on the model proposed by Hermann Hauser and James Dyson, to commercialise new and emerging technologies in areas where there are large global market opportunities and a critical mass of UK capability to take advantage.

The Technology Strategy Board will work with industry, stakeholders, and wider government to identify the priority areas and governance structure for the elite network of technology and innovation centres by April 2011.

Train to Gain Programme: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people have received training from the Train to Gain programme in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* Tower Hamlets and *(c)* London in each year since the inception of that programme. [20880]

Mr Hayes: The following table shows the number of Train to Gain starts in Bethnal Green and Bow parliamentary constituency, Tower Hamlets local authority and London Government office region from 2005/06 to 2008/09, the latest academic year for which we have full-year figures. The Train to Gain programme started in April 2006.

Train to Gain starts by geography, 2005/06 to 2008/09

	2005/06	2006/07	2007/08	2008/09[1]
	April 2006 to August 2006	Full year	Full year	Full year
Bethnal Green and Bow parliamentary constituency	40	380	850	1,700
Tower Hamlets local authority	100	800	1,700	3,300
London Government office region	1,900	24,700	51,400	94,600

[1] Figures for 2008/09 are not comparable with earlier years as in 2008/09 NVQs delivered in the workplace previously funded by FE are now funded by Train to Gain. There were 181,000 starts in NVQs delivered in the workplace in 2007/08.

Notes:

1. Figures by parliamentary constituency are rounded to the nearest 10. All other figures are rounded to the nearest 100.
2. Data for NVQs delivered in the workplace by FE organisations are included in the figures for 2008/09 onwards.
3. Figures are based upon the home postcode of the learner and on constituency boundaries which came in to effect in May 2010.

Source:

Individualised Learner Record

Information on the number of Train to Gain starts and achievements is published in a quarterly statistical first release (SFR). The latest SFR was published on 24 June:

http://www.thedataservice.org.uk/statistics/statisticalfirstrelease/sfr_current/

Supplementary table 7 shows Train to Gain starts and achievements by parliamentary constituency, local authority and Government office region.

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many businesses have received assistance from the Train to Gain programme in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow constituency, *(b)* Tower Hamlets and *(c)* London in each year since the inception of that programme. [20884]

Mr Hayes: The Train to Gain brokerage service recorded the number of businesses who engaged with the Train to Gain provision through the brokerage service between 2006/07 and 2008/09 as follows:

	Number
2006/07	[1]51,600
2007/08	52,100
2008/09	39,700

[1] This figure includes 4,000 employers engaged through the former Employer Training Pilots between April and July 2006.

In April 2009 the Train to Gain brokerage services was integrated into Business Link. Figures recorded by Business Link for Employer Engagement indicate that for April 2009 to July 2009 there were 16,149 employer engagements of which 2,418 were employer engagements in the London region; August 2009 to June 2010 there were 51,329 employer engagements, of which 9,289 were employer engagements in the London region.

Note: The number of employer engagements represents the number of employers who have engaged with the brokerage service. It does not represent the number of employers with employees learning on the Train to Gain programme.

University: Closures

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of university departments teaching *(a)* science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects and *(b)* other subjects which are at risk of closure as a result of proposed reductions in funding to university teaching. [20747]

Mr Willetts: We have no reliable evidence on which to make such an estimate. Lord Browne has recommended that funding for higher education should, in future, largely follow student choice. This would be supported by better information about course content and outcomes. This would allow popular and successful courses to prosper.

Lord Browne also recommends that teaching grant should be concentrated on priority subjects, such as medicine or technology and in the recent comprehensive spending review announcement we were able to protect science and research. We have said that we agree with the broad thrust of Lord Browne's recommendations and will respond shortly.

However, universities are autonomous institutions and have the freedom to choose the subjects they wish to teach. The Government cannot guarantee the future of any particular subject or institution.

Vocational Training

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what steps his Department is taking to ensure that vocational training courses are delivered with the required expertise and experience; and whether he has considered the merits of implementing minimum teaching standards for vocational qualifications to include relevant expertise and experience within the vocational area being taught. [20495]

Mr Hayes: The Government believe that further education (FE) providers should forge strong links with employers. Teaching in FE and Skills is, for most teachers and trainers a second or third career. They are highly skilled and have dual profession such as plumbers, electricians and beauty therapists.

A series of workforce reforms were introduced aimed at increasing the professionalism of the FE teaching workforce. The major levers for reform were embedded in regulations introduced in September 2007. These require teachers to hold appropriate qualifications and work towards achieving Qualified Teacher Learning and Skills (QTLS) status and to become members of the Institute for Learning (IFL), the professional body for FE teachers.

To ensure that both teaching and subject specialist skills are maintained and enhanced all FE teachers are required to demonstrate an annual commitment of at least 30 hours of continuing professional development (CPD). The Government are committed to maintaining requirements for a professional qualified FE teaching workforce.

With regard to schools my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Education has asked Professor Alison Wolf to carry out an independent review of vocational education. Professor Wolf will consider the organisation, funding, and target audience for vocational education, and the principles that should underpin the content, structure and teaching methods. She will report in spring 2011, and her findings will inform future developments to improve the standard of vocational education for 14-19 year-olds. As the findings of the review emerge the Department for Education will consider the implications for the teaching of vocational education in schools.

HEALTH

Contaminated Blood Products: Compensation

17. **Stephen Phillips:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of providing compensation for those who received contaminated blood products in the 1970s and 1980s and their relatives; and if he will make a statement. [20945]

Anne Milton: The estimated cost of making ex-gratia payments to those who were affected by contaminated blood and blood products in 2010-11 is £13.6 million.

However, we are currently reviewing payments for hepatitis C infection, and we intend to report the outcome of that review before the end of the year.

GP Budget Holding

18. **Chris Kelly:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on implementation of his proposals for GP budget holding *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in Dudley South constituency. [20946]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's engagement and consultation process on the proposals set out in the White Paper to establish local commissioning consortia of general practitioner practices finished on 11 October 2010. We are analysing all the contributions received, including four that we have received from Dudley, and our response will be published in due course.

NHS Services: Local Authority Funding

19. **Mr Carswell:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the effect on NHS services of changes to funding for local authorities. [20947]

Mr Lansley: The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government and I regularly discuss how the relationship between the national health service and local government can be strengthened. The White Paper set out significant opportunities for this. The spending review provided specific resources for local government and adult social care through the NHS, of up to £1 billion by 2014-15, to be spent on measures that support social care, which will also benefit health.

NHS: Winter Pressures

20. **Gareth Johnson:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what preparations he is making for anticipated winter pressures on the NHS in 2010-11. [20948]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has worked with strategic health authorities to ensure that the national health service has robust arrangements in place across local health and social care areas to deal with the additional pressures winter can bring. Since the autumn, the NHS has been working with its partners locally to address the challenges they will face during the course of the forthcoming winter.

Organ Donation

21. **Kevin Brennan:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will bring forward proposals for a soft opt-out system for organ donation. [20949]

Anne Milton: The Organ Donation Taskforce looked at the issue of an opt-out system for organ donation in 2008. The taskforce did not recommend moving to an opt-out system. An increase in donor rates has been achieved by implementing the taskforce's recommendations. We will seek further opportunities to increase organ donation, with the principles of informed consent.

Health Visitors

22. **Amber Rudd:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future numbers of health visitors. [20950]

Anne Milton: We believe the first steps in a child's development are crucial to the child's life chances. That is why we are committed to growing the health visitor work-force by 4,200 and developing universal health visiting services to drive-up health outcomes and reduce health inequalities.

Dementia Services: Devon

23. **Anne Marie Morris:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he plans to review the provision of health care services in Devon for those diagnosed with dementia. [20951]

Paul Burstow: As a result of revisions to the NHS operating framework earlier this year every primary care trust is obliged to publish its plans for implementing the national dementia strategy. This change along with our wider health reforms will increase transparency and local accountability.

Registered Organ Donors

24. **Mr Spencer:** To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to increase the number of registered organ donors. [20952]

Anne Milton: Activities are ongoing to promote organ donation and the number of people on the organ donor register continues to increase. NHS blood and transplant are working in partnership with the NHS, commercial and third sector organisations to promote organ donation locally and nationally.

Advisory Group for National Specialised Services

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he plans to publish *(a)* future arrangements for national specialist commissioning and *(b)* the operations and remit of the new Advisory Group for National Specialised Services. [20527]

Mr Simon Burns: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 898W, in response to the operations and remit of the Advisory Group for National Specialised Services.

The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" set out our proposals for transforming the quality of commissioning by devolving decision-making to local consortia of general practitioner practices, supported by the creation of an independent NHS commissioning board and launched an engagement and consultation process on how best to implement these changes. This period of consultation and engagement closed on 11 October 2010. The Department is now analysing all the contributions received and will respond to the consultation in due course.

Arthritis: Health Services

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health whether he has made a recent estimate of the amount spent by *(a)* each primary care trust and *(b)* the NHS per head of population on rheumatoid arthritis services; and what progress his Department has made on its work to determine whether there is correlation between the quality of rheumatoid arthritis services and spending per head of population. [20600]

Paul Burstow: The Department does not collect expenditure data on rheumatoid arthritis and therefore cannot undertake any work on the correlation between expenditure and the quality of rheumatoid arthritis services.

Arthritis: Nurses

Gordon Henderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate his Department has made of the number of rheumatoid arthritis specialist nurses working in the NHS; what plans he has for the future number of such nurses in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [20601]

Mr Simon Burns: The information is not collected centrally.

Rheumatoid arthritis specialist nurses are not separately identified within the NHS Workforce Census.

Back Pain: Health Services

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the adequacy of provision of specialist back pain diagnosis and treatment services; and what level of regional variation he has detected in that provision. [20965]

Paul Burstow: No assessment has been made. We believe that primary care trusts, and in due course general practitioner commissioning consortia responding to the needs and views of their patients, are in the best position to determine the priorities for improving services and responding to clinical innovation.

However, a national audit into pain services is expected to report early next year. It is intended to give a broad overview of the state of provision of chronic pain services across England (including back pain over the duration of a three month period), both from the perspective of patients and in terms of adherence to good clinical practice. We will therefore have better information on the scale of the challenge once the new national pain audit reports.

Bone Cancer: Children

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average life expectancy is of a child patient treated with conventional treatments for osteosarcoma. [20528]

Paul Burstow: I refer my hon. Friend to the written answer I gave him on 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 898-99W.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what progress his Department has made on the roll-out of the age extension to the NHS Breast Screening Programme; [20351]

(2) what proportion of breast screening units have one or more full-field direct digital mammography machine; [20402]

(3) what research his Department has conducted on the effectiveness of *(a)* digital mammography and *(b)* standard mammography in respect of the screening of women in the lower age range of the NHS breast screening programme; [20403]

(4) what plans his Department has for the roll-out of digital mammography; and what timescale he has set for completing the roll-out. [20404]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) included the commitment that the NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHS BSP) would be extended to women aged 47 to 73. In June this year, we confirmed in the "Revision to the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11" that all local breast screening programmes should begin the extension in 2010-11.

We are working with NHS Cancer Screening Programmes to ensure local programmes begin the age extension as soon as possible. By the end of March next year, we expect over 60% of screening programmes to have started the extension.

One of the criteria for extension of the NHS BSP is that local screening programmes should have at least one Digital Mammography (DM) machine in place before they extend, in accordance with the timetable in the revised operating framework. Based on the latest information, 14 local screening programmes are fully digital and 36 have at least one DM machine.

NHS Cancer Screening Programmes undertook a practical and technical evaluation of DM before it was considered for use in the NHS BSP. Studies in both Europe and America have found that DM is better than film screen mammography for younger women, premenopausal or perimenopausal women and women with dense breasts.

Cancer Drugs Fund

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding he plans to allocate to the Cancer Drugs Fund in *(a)* 2011-12, *(b)* 2012-13 and *(c)* 2013-14. [20915]

Paul Burstow: Following the spending review, we have committed £200 million to the Cancer Drugs Fund in each of the three years from April 2011 to support improved access to cancer drugs. We are currently consulting on arrangements for the fund, including a proposal to distribute this funding to the national health service based on weighted capitation.

Emily Thornberry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health from what sources his Department is funding the interim Cancer Drugs Fund; and what amount of funding is being drawn from each such source in 2010-11. [20916]

Paul Burstow: The £50-million interim cancer drugs funding made available to the national health service in this financial year came from savings in central departmental budgets, which we have redirected to front-line care for cancer patients.

Carers: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what funding his Department allocated to *(a)* Brighton and Hove city council and *(b)* NHS Brighton and Hove for the support of carers in each of the last three years; and what mechanisms are in place to ensure that such funding is appropriately disbursed. [20606]

Paul Burstow: Brighton and Hove city council received £1.102 million in 2008-09, £1.167 million in 2009-10 and £1.132 million in 2010-11 for the carers element of their area based grant.

In the period covering 2009-11, £150 million was made available within primary care trust (PCT) allocations (£50 million in 2009-10 and £100 million in 2010-11) to enable them to provide breaks for carers.

PCT revenue allocations are not broken down by policy at either a national or local level, therefore the money was not ring-fenced and there are no specific mechanisms in place to monitor its expenditure. It is for PCTs to decide their priorities for investment locally, taking into account their local circumstances and priorities set out in the NHS Operating Framework.

Cataracts: Waiting lists

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what estimate his Department has made of the median wait among those admitted for cataract extraction between 1 July and 30 September 2006 in England, subject to the proviso that admimeth =11, 12 or 13, that opertn_1 = C71, C72, C73, C74, C75 or C77 and that admidate minus elecdate <732 days; [20367]

(2) what estimate his Department has made of the median wait among those who at midnight on 30 September 2006 were waiting to be admitted for cataract extraction in England were admidate > 30 September 2006, where elecdate is less than or equal to September 2006, and where the (uncompleted) wait = 30 September 2006 minus elecdate, subject to the proviso that admidate minus elecdate <732 days. [20368]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has not made estimates of the median wait for patients waiting for cataract extraction.

Information on activity and time waited for cataract extraction and prosthesis of lens is available from the NHS Information Centre's Hospital Episode Statistics website:

www.hesonline.nhs.uk/Ease/servlet/ContentServer?siteID=1937&categoryID=192

Childbirth

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to NHS trusts on the provision of choice to women in respect of place of birth. [20556]

Anne Milton: In the White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', we make the commitment to extend choice care in maternity through new maternity networks. In our consultation document 'Liberating the NHS: Greater choice and control' (published 18 October 2010) we are seeking views on what choices people would like to see in maternity and which ones they see as important.

The National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence guideline on 'Intrapartum care' (published September 2007) states: "Women should be offered the choice of planning birth at home, in a midwife-led unit or in an obstetric unit".

CJD

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease (CJD) were diagnosed *(a)* nationally, *(b)* in Sussex, *(c) in* Brighton and Hove City and *(d)* in Hove constituency in (i) 2005, (ii) 2006, (iii) 2007, (iv) 2008 and (v) 2009; and in how many such cases CJD was recorded as being contracted as a result of dental treatment. [20383]

Anne Milton: Data on CJD deaths, supplied by the National Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease Surveillance Unit (NCJDSU), are shown in the following table. None of these cases were characterised as being the result of dental treatment.

Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease deaths

Number

	2005	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*
United Kingdom	88	84	79	98	91
Sussex (west and east)	4	1	2	2	2
Brighton and Hove City	1	0	0	0	0

The NCJDSU does not publish data by date of diagnosis, and does not routinely record cases by constituency, though it is understood that the one death recorded for Brighton and Hove City was in the Hove constituency.

Dementia: Medical Treatments

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what guidance his Department issues to clinicians on the management of symptoms of agitation and aggression in dementia patients. [20541]

Paul Burstow: The Department has not issued guidance on the management of symptoms of agitation and aggression in dementia patients.

Clinical guidance on Dementia: supporting people with dementia and their carers was last issued by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence (NICE) and the Social Care Institute for Excellence (SCIE) in November 2006. This addresses the management of symptoms of agitation and aggression for those with dementia. The 2006 guidance makes clear that the use of antipsychotic drugs in the treatment of patients with mild to moderate non-cognitive symptoms of Alzheimer's disease and vascular or mixed dementias is not recommended. Clinical guidelines are recommendations by NICE on the appropriate treatment and care of people with specific diseases and conditions within the NHS. The NICE websites state that NICE expects to consider the need to review this guidance in November 2011.

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what medical treatments are licensed for the treatment of behavioural symptoms in dementia; and if he will make a statement. [20542]

Paul Burstow: Currently, only risperidone is licensed for:

> 'the short-term treatment (up to six weeks) of persistent aggression in patients with moderate to severe Alzheimer's dementia unresponsive to non-pharmacological approaches and when there is a risk of harm to self or others.'

There are other licensed products used in the treatment of dementia in Alzheimer's disease. These include the drugs, donepezil (Aricept®), galantamine (Reminyl®), memantine (Ebixa®) and rivastigmine (Exelon®). However, these products are used to treat the cognitive aspects of the disease rather than the behavioural symptoms.

Dental Services: Equipment

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will consult the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence on the scientific basis for his Department's Health Technical Memorandum 01/05 on Decontamination prior to its implementation. [20382]

Mr Simon Burns: The document Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 contains departmental guidance on the decontamination of dental instruments. The evidence and measures within the document were scrutinised by a number of means in order to ensure validity and proportionality to the assessment of risks. Advice was taken from an expert working group, including officials from the British Dental Association, the Spongiform Encephalopathy Advisory Committee and the Advisory Committee on Decontamination Science and Technology, which supported the general principle of the need to improve local decontamination within dentistry. In this light, we are not persuaded that there would be added benefit in referral to the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the likely effects of implementation of his Department's Health Technical Memorandum 01/05 on Decontamination on the risk of infection of Creutzfeldt-Jakob Disease from dental treatment; and if he will make a statement. [20384]

Mr Simon Burns: There is evidence from animal studies that dental tissues (including dental pulp and gingiva) may provide a potential route of person to person Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease (CJD) infection. The Spongiform Encephalopathies Advisory Committee (SEAC) in considering this risk has stated that:

> "improving the effectiveness of procedures used to decontaminate dental instruments would reduce the risk of transmission".

SEAC's position statement on VCJD and Endodontic dentistry May 2006 can be found at:

www.seac.gov.uk/statements/statement0506.htm

The importance of observing the highest standards of decontamination in dental practice was emphasised in the chief dental officer's April 2007 letter to all dentists.

Evidence supports the use of effective cleaning and sterilisation of used instruments in a validated steam sterilizer to reduce the potential risk of CJD transmission via dental instruments. This along with the recommendation of single patient use for all endodontics files and reamers and that all instruments which cannot be effectively cleaned be treated, where feasible, as single use are included in the essential quality requirements in Health Technical Memorandum 01-05. Implementation of this guidance will reduce the risk of transmission of CJD from dental treatment.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely costs for primary care trusts of compliance by NHS community practices with his Department's Health Technical Memorandum 01/05 on Decontamination; and if he will make a statement. [20385]

Mr Simon Burns: There is no direct cost to primary care trusts (PCTs) in compliance with the Health Technical Memorandum 01-05. Where the provider arm of the PCT is responsible for salaried dental services, these services will need to comply with the essential quality requirements as described in the HTM 01-05. The costs involved should be minimal as PCT provider services should all have been compliant with the previous guidance in the 'A 12' guide on decontamination in dental practice, issued by the British Dental Association in 2002, with the support of the Department.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely cost to NHS community practices of compliance with his Department's Health Technical Memorandum 01/05 on Decontamination; and if he will make a statement. [20386]

Mr Simon Burns: Practices are required to meet the essential quality requirements (EQR) within Health Technical Memorandum 01-05. This will ensure that the risk of patient-to-patient pathogen transmission, especially form blood borne viruses is effectively reduced. The costs of implementing the essential quality requirements as described in the guidance should be minimal for practices already complying with previous requirements, set in the 'A 12' guide on decontamination in dental practice, issued by the British Dental Association in 2002, with the support of the Department. Practices that were complying with the earlier guidance should therefore incur few additional costs in complying with the EQR. We have not set a date for compliance with the higher 'best practice' standards set in the HTM.

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely effects on dental charges to patients of implementation of his Department's Health Technical Memorandum 01/05 on Decontamination. [20387]

Mr Simon Burns: Health Technical Memorandum 01-05 on Decontamination will have no effect on national health service dental patient charges.

Departmental Manpower

Derek Twigg: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the likely costs to *(a)* primary care trusts and *(b)* strategic health authorities arising from (i) staff redundancies and (ii) staff transfers attributable to (A) his proposed changes to his Department's non-departmental public bodies and (B) the proposed reforms in the NHS White Paper. [20400]

Mr Simon Burns: The White Paper "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS" laid out proposals for fundamental changes to the ways that the national health service is structured and run, including for the structures of primary care trusts, strategic health authorities and the Department. The precise costs of the transition to the new system will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

Four consultations relating to how the new organisations should be designed—specifically covering "transparency on outcomes, liberating the NHS: local democratic legitimacy in health" and "commissioning for patients and regulating healthcare providers"—have recently closed and once the results of these have been analysed we will publish the costs of the new system in an impact assessment.

A further two consultations on other aspects of reform set out in the White Paper—specifically "an information revolution" and "greater choice and control"—have recently been launched and will close in January.

In addition the public bodies review has laid out proposals for a number of changes to public bodies, including the Human Fertility and Embryology Authority, and the Human Tissue Authority, which are the responsibility of the Department. The Department is not yet able to produce robust costings of the changes arising from this reorganisation. This is because the precise costs of the transition will not be known until the operational detail of the changes is known.

The Government will shortly publish an impact assessment assessing the impact of the changes proposed in the Public Bodies (Reform) Bill.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20694]

Mr Simon Burns: National health service revenue allocations are currently made to primary care trusts (PCTs) on the basis of a national weighted capitation formula which is used to determine each PCTs target share of available resources, to enable them to commission services to meet the health-care needs of the local populations they serve.

The formula uses the most up-to-date sub-national population projections (SNPPs) available at the time from the Office for National Statistics (ONS). Currently these are 2006-based (published in June 2008), and were used to inform PCT revenue allocations for 2009-10 and 2010-11. SNPPs are currently produced every two years by ONS. The latest 2008-based projections were published on 27 May 2010 and included the latest methodology for estimating patterns of migration. These will inform future allocation rounds.

For 2013-14 onwards, the NHS commissioning board will be responsible for the fair and efficient use of resources in the NHS. The Board will make allocations to general practitioner (GP) Consortia on the basis of securing equivalent access to NHS services in all areas relative to the prospective burden of disease and disability. The detail of how resources are allocated to GP Consortia will be a matter for the Commissioning Board.

Dialysis Machines: Wisbech

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will *(a)* consider the merits of and *(b)* estimate the cost of funding a satellite kidney dialysis unit in Wisbech. [21184]

Mr Simon Burns: Regional specialised commissioning groups. (SCGs) are responsible for ensuring that sufficient and high quality renal replacement therapy is available for their residents. This is undertaken by working with their constituent primary care trusts (PCTs) to develop robust capacity plans to ensure that available capacity meets patient demand. Funding for additional renal dialysis is subsequently agreed via the local SCG prioritisation process against other specialised services competing for resources. Together with their constituent PCTs, SCGs are also responsible for ensuring that patients and the public play a role in deciding where services are located.

The East of England strategic health authority has advised that the local SCG is developing plans to increase the numbers of local renal units so no patient is more than 30 minutes away from place of treatment. The SCG will also invest to increase home therapy dialysis services.

Food Supplements: EU Law

Claire Perry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on *(a)* food supplements and *(b)* implementation of the EU Food Supplements Directive. [20815]

Anne Milton: The Government believe that any regulation for food supplements should be based on safety and consumers having the right to make an informed choice. The European Food Supplements Directive was implemented in England in 2003 and came into force in 2005. The legislation contains a requirement to set maximum levels for vitamins and minerals in food supplements on the basis of science and safety. Discussions on this are expected to restart in 2011 and any proposal would need to be agreed by a majority of member states before implementation.

General Practitioners: Standards

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health who will be responsible for the operation of revalidation following the ending of primary care trusts. [20620]

Anne Milton: The General Medical Council (GMC) is responsible for the revalidation of doctors. Subject to parliamentary approval, responsible officers in primary care trusts will make recommendations to the GMC on the revalidation of doctors in primary care. Proposals for responsible officers to reflect new national health service structures will be brought forward in 2011.

Health Services: Hull

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the *(a)* cost and *(b)* purpose was of the 'We are Listening' NHS posters erected on lamp posts in and around Hull; what guidance his Department issues to NHS trusts on the use of such posters; and if he will make a statement. [21103]

Mr Simon Burns: This is a matter for the Hull Teaching Primary Care Trust (PCT). The Yorkshire and the Humber Strategic Health Authority (SHA) reports that the 'We're all ears' listening exercise was a local initiative, implemented in response to needs that were identified by the PCT in the Hull city area.

The Department does not issue guidance on how PCTs should be using local communications materials. However, guidance on the design of communications materials is provided through the national health service brand guidelines. The NHS brand website provides detailed guidance on how to apply the NHS brand to all communications materials. Details can be found at:

www.nhsidentity.nhs.uk

The Department would always encourage NHS communications teams to only spend money on materials where there is a proven need to do so, and through channels that are proven to be effective. We expect NHS organisations to seek the best value for money from any communications activities, and to evaluate the effectiveness of their communications.

Health Services: Summertime

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on the provision of first response and acute medical services of the introduction of daylight saving time throughout the year. [19190]

Mr Simon Burns: No such assessment has been formally made by the Department. The national health service ambulance service and acute trusts provide patients with urgent and emergency care 24 hours a day, 365 days a year taking into account any relevant factors including the impact of daylight saving time.

Health Visitors: Training

Liz Kendall: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the average cost was of training a health visitor in the latest period for which figures are available. [16626]

Anne Milton: This information is not collected centrally. As part of the programme to deliver the coalition Government commitment for the increase in the number of health visitors departmental officials are working with the national health service to ensure robust and up to date costings are used to plan the increase in training places.

The cost of a health visiting training course is about £6,500 per trainee (i.e. headcount) and the average salary cost for a full-time equivalent health visiting student is about £37,000 (i.e. the salary of a full-time experienced nurse now training to be a health visitor).

These figures are estimates only (based on information provided by strategic health authorities (SHAs) in 2005-06) and the actual costs will vary depending on local arrangements between SHAs and higher education institutions. Ultimately, it is the decision of SHAs how much they spend on training health visitors, and thus the Department, while using the most robust costing methodologies and information available for internal modelling work, cannot provide a definitive answer to the parliamentary question.

Health Visitors: West Sussex

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for future numbers of health visitors serving Crawley and West Sussex. [20498]

Anne Milton: At the Community Practitioners and Health Visitors Association conference on 21 October 2010, as part of the spending review announcements, we confirmed our intention to recruit, pay for and train 4,200 health visitors over the course of this Parliament, to ensure that all families have access to the support they need when children are in their early years.

Hospitals: Waiting Lists

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reasons records from hospital episode statistics captured at the time and by means of a census yield a shorter median wait than records captured over a period and as a result of an event such as admission. [20971]

Mr Simon Burns: Information on waiting times is typically recorded in two ways: either through a snapshot of patients still waiting at a moment in time; or recording how long individual patients have waited between referral and an event along their pathway such as an appointment, diagnostic test, decision to admit or starting treatment.

These different approaches capture different information and yield different results.

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20471]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has made no payments to the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months.

Maternity Services

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the outcome was of his Department's review of the 'Making it Better' maternity services programme; and if he will make a statement. [20978]

Anne Milton: This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils who are best placed to determine the nature of their national health service locally. The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened tests that proposals on NHS service changes must meet.

They must focus on improving patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from GP commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence.

Responsibility for local health services lies with the NHS locally. Therefore, we have asked the local NHS to look at how schemes that are ongoing meet these new tests—including 'Making it Better'. We are clear that services should be driven by the need to improve patient outcomes. NHS North West advises that the assessment for 'Making it Better' is incomplete, pending submission of the National Clinical Assessment Team report. Assessment will be concluded once all evidence has been submitted.

Medical Records: Databases

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many patients have received the summary care record database since the publication of the review of that database; whether he plans to provide information on the opt-out option to those patients whose records have already been added to the database; and if he will make a statement. [21139]

Mr Simon Burns: Reports of reviews of the content of the summary care record (SCR), and of the information that patients receive, and the process by which they opt out of having a SCR, were published on 11 October 2010. Between that date and 27 October 295,898 new SCRs were created for patients where the general practitioner (GP) practice and the primary care trust (PCT) had agreed that patients had been adequately informed about the process, and properly enabled to opt out should they wish.

Before implementation each PCT has always been required to conduct a public information programme to inform patients about the SCR, its implications, and the choices open to them, including opting out. The relevant SCR review concluded that there should be no requirement to re-mail those patients who had already received information, but that for those patients, and those about to be mailed, it was important that PCTs and individual GP practices be supported to further raise awareness. This work is now ongoing at a local, regional and national level, in concert with the professions, and patient and other voluntary organisations.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to enable patients to remove their summary care records from the summary care database. [21140]

Mr Simon Burns: Patients have always been able to change their mind at any time and choose no longer to have a summary care record (SCR). If a patient chooses to do this, action will be taken so that the existing SCR can no longer able to be accessed by health care professionals.

Patients can also request to have their record deleted rather than made inaccessible. This will be done so long as the SCR has not previously been used to provide care. Where the SCR has previously been accessed, a record of that access needs to be kept in case there is a subsequent investigation of the performance of a clinician or a dispute about the facts.

Advice to this effect has been included in the information that has gone to date to patients who have already had a SCR created for them. The local awareness campaigns that will be undertaken following the recent review of the information that patients receive, and the process by which they opt out of having a SCR, will further reinforce this message.

Medicine: Education

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of graduates from medical schools in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 failed to gain a higher medical training post in a UK hospital in the year immediately following graduation. [20714]

Anne Milton: All graduates for United Kingdom medical schools who applied to the Foundation programme in 2007, 2008 and 2009 were offered a place at one of the foundation schools.

Not all graduates of UK medical schools choose to apply or take up a place on the Foundation programme. A small number choose to take time off, go abroad, or undertake research.

Mental Health Services

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to implement the Government's proposal to provide greater access to talking therapies within the NHS. [20533]

Paul Burstow: Earlier this year I announced confirmation of the final £70 million instalment of funding for the improving access to psychological therapies programme, which has enabled the broadening of the geographical range of talking therapy services, meaning more people can get help.

Funding for expanding access to talking therapies to children and young people, older people and those with more serious mental illness was included in the spending review announcement on 20 October 2010. Plans for delivering this and completing the roll out of services for people with depression and anxiety disorders as part of a nationwide training programme for therapists are being developed. The plans will feature in the cross-Government mental health strategy and the public health white paper which are to be announced in due course.

Mental Health Services: Finance

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of NHS expenditure on the treatment and prevention of mental illness in *(a)* 2009-10, *(b)* 2010-11 and *(c)* 2011-12; and if he will make a statement. [21392]

Paul Burstow: At 11% of total expenditure, the national health service spends more money on mental health (£10.4 billion in 2008-09) than on any other clinical area.

NHS programme budget expenditure for mental health, 2007-08 and 2008-09 figures:

	2007-08	*2008-09*
Total gross expenditure (£)	93,183,426	96,814,987
Mental health disorders (£)	10,278,503	10,415,840
Proportion spent on mental health disorders (percentage)	11.03	10.76

In real terms, spend on adult mental health care grew by 50.3%, between 2001-02 (the first year for which comparable data is available) and 2008-09. The most recent data shows total planned investment increased from £5.530 billion in 2007-08 to £5.892 billion in 2008-09, a 6.6% increase in the amount, and 4.0% in real terms over 2007-08.

The NHS programme expenditure is divided into 23 'programme budget' areas, the programme budget for mental health does not provide the level of detail which would allow us to estimate the split between treatment and prevention specifically.

Regarding future spend on mental health, we cannot make an estimate. It is for local NHS providers to commission services, including mental health services, in their areas.

Midwives

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for the future *(a)* training, *(b)* recruitment and *(c)* retention of midwives in the NHS. [20555]

Anne Milton: The coalition Government are currently considering the work force needed to deliver safe maternity services which extend maternity choice and help make safe, informed choices throughout pregnancy and in childbirth a reality.

NHS

Mr Barron: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what discussions he has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the implications for that Department of *(a)* the proposals in the Health White Paper on 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' and *(b)* the commissioning of NHS dentistry of the Health White Paper on 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS'. [19591]

Mr Simon Burns: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State met with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 10 June 2010 to discuss emerging ideas, which contributed to the development of 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', in particular the role of primary care trusts and local authorities. They did not discuss the commissioning of national health service dentistry.

NHS Commissioning Board

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what mechanisms he plans to establish to assess the NHS commissioning board's performance against its objectives in commissioning services. [20983]

Mr Simon Burns: As set out in "Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS", the NHS commissioning board will be given a mandate by the Secretary of State. This will comprise progress against objectives and outcomes specified by the Secretary of State, drawing on the national health service outcomes framework, and will be subject to public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny. Once the consultation and scrutiny process is complete and the content of the mandate is finalised, it will be possible to set out the means by which the performance of the NHS commissioning board is to be assessed.

NHS: Data Protection

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) on what conditions staff and medical files are transferred to NHS Shared Business Services; [20612]

(2) what access employees of NHS Shared Business Services in India have to NHS *(a)* staff and *(b)* patient records; [20613]

(3) how many staff NHS Shared Business Services employed *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in India in (i) 2005, (ii) 2009 and (iii) the latest period for which figures are available; and how many such staff his Department plans to employ in each such country in each of the next four years. [20614]

Mr Simon Burns: NHS Shared Business Services (NHS SBS) was established in April 2005 as a 50:50 joint venture between the Department of Health and Groupe Steria S.A. to provide business support services to the national health service, including finance and accounting, payroll, and e-procurement services.

NHS SBS delivers services through an integrated onshore and offshore model. Its offices are based in Leeds, Bristol, Southampton and Ilford in the United Kingdom, and in Noida and Pune in India.

When NHS trust staff transfer into NHS SBS their staff files are scanned and saved electronically by NHS SBS Human Resources and the original hard copies are destroyed. The same process applies to any occupational health reports or medical certificates held within staff files at point of transfer.

NHS SBS data are held on servers hosted in the UK and where appropriate, only relevant data can be accessed from India. NHS SBS employees in India have access to staff data, using a secure link.

No clinical or medical information—either hardcopy or electronic—can be accessed by NHS SBS employees in India. They are, however, able to access demographic information from the NHS Care Record Service.

NHS SBS is independently accredited at Level Two for Information Governance under the NHS Information Governance Assurance Framework.

The staff numbers for NHS SBS are shown in the following table:

Date	*India*	*United Kingdom*
31 December 2005	98	557
31 December 2009	586	632
30 September 2010	660	635

Source:
NHS SBS

It is not possible to predict future staffing levels for NHS SBS for the next four years. Resources will be allocated according to market and business requirements.

Obesity: Summertime

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on the rate of obesity of the introduction of daylight saving time throughout the year. [19192]

Anne Milton: None.

Pain

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many people have a diagnosis of reflex sympathetic dystrophy or complex regional pain syndrome; [21061]

(2) what initiatives his Department has to increase awareness of reflex sympathetic dystrophy and complex regional pain syndrome among GPs. [21062]

Paul Burstow: Information on the number of people diagnosed with reflex sympathetic dystrophy, or complex regional pain syndrome, is not collected.

The NHS Choices website contains detailed information, suitable for health professionals or those recently diagnosed, on the diagnosis, symptoms and treatment options for complex regional pain syndrome.

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what research his Department has *(a)* carried out and *(b)* funded on the treatment of reflex sympathetic dystrophy and complex regional pain syndrome in the last 10 years. [21063]

Paul Burstow: Complex regional pain syndrome (CRPS) used to be known as reflex sympathetic dystrophy. The Department has not carried out any research on the treatment of CRPS.

The Department's National Institute for Health Research (NIHR) is currently funding a career development fellowship on understanding and manipulating the motor and sensory systems for the relief of pain. This includes research on CRPS.

The NIHR Health Technology Assessment programme has recently funded two projects relevant to the treatment of CRPS:

Spinal cord stimulation for chronic pain of neuropathic or ischaemic origin; and

The clinical and cost-effectiveness of different treatment pathways for neuropathic pain.

Records of individual national health service supported research projects collected up to September 2007, including some projects relating to CRPS, are available on the archived national research register (NRR) at:

www.nihr.ac.uk/Pages/NRRArchiveSearch.aspx

Primary Care Trusts: Fertility

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which primary care trusts *(a)* do and *(b)* do not provide fertility treatment. [21257]

Anne Milton: Information about the number of primary care trusts (PCTs) providing fertility services for national health service patients is not collected centrally.

We encourage all commissioners to take account of the National Institute of Health and Clinical Excellence guidelines on infertility treatment in determining local provision of services. We are supporting the leading infertility patient organisation, Infertility Network UK, to work with PCTs on this.

Rochdale Hospital

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what assessment he has made of the effect on numbers of health-care staff at Rochdale hospital of the proposed transfer of facilities *(a)* to and *(b)* from the hospital; [20655]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effect on *(a)* referral times and *(b)* treatment of acute cases of the transfer of hospital facilities (i) from and (ii) to Rochdale hospital; and if he will make a statement; [20656]

(3) what steps he is taking to consult on the planned Healthy Futures programme at Rochdale hospital; and if he will make a statement. [20657]

Mr Simon Burns: Responsibility for local health services lies with the national health service locally. Therefore, no assessment is made centrally of the impact of local service changes.

This Government are committed to devolving power to local communities—to the people, patients, general practitioners (GPs) and councils who are best placed to determine the nature of their national health services locally. The Government have pledged that, in future, all service changes must be led by clinicians and patients, not be driven from the top down. To this end, we have outlined new, strengthened criteria that decisions on NHS service changes must meet.

They must focus on improving patient outcomes; consider patient choice; have support from GP commissioners; and be based on sound clinical evidence.

We have asked the local NHS to look at how schemes that are ongoing meet this new criteria by the end of October 2010—including those that impact on the Rochdale Infirmary, namely "Healthy Futures" and "Making it Better". We are clear that services should be driven by the need to improve patient outcomes. NHS North West advises that this work is now complete and that it is now reviewing the evidence provided. NHS North West will be able to advise on the process of the review.

Seasonal Affective Disorder: Summertime

Rebecca Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the likely effect on those diagnosed with seasonal affective disorder of the introduction of daylight saving time throughout the year. [19189]

Paul Burstow: No such assessment has been made.

Slaughterhouses: Regulation

Mr Mark Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the number of breaches of regulations governing the operation of slaughterhouses in the latest period for which figures are available. [20734]

Anne Milton: Breaches of regulations governing the operation of slaughterhouses are met with enforcement by the official veterinarian as part of the delivery of official controls. Enforcement includes both informal action (verbal advice, written advice, written warnings) and formal action (service of formal notices, formal warnings, cautions, referrals for investigation and prosecutions).

The Food Standards Agency monitors informal written action and all formal action in every slaughterhouse. For the period 1 April to 30 July 2010 the following actions were taken in Great Britain:

Type of enforcement	*Number*
Written advice/warnings	655
Formal notices	66
Recommendations for investigation	55
Total	776

In the four month period (April to July 2010) enforcement action was taken for 776 breaches of regulations governing the operation of slaughterhouses (approximately 387 operating in this period). Breaches of regulations may also be met with verbal advice, for which total figures are not available.

Social Services: Finance

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Health for what reason funding for local authority social care is no longer to be ring-fenced; and what assessment he has made of the effect of the end of such ring-fencing on disabled individuals and their families. [20835]

Paul Burstow: Currently, only funding worth £237 million is ring-fenced for social care. This is a very small proportion of total social care expenditure. We therefore do not anticipate that removing the ring-fence will have a significant effect on overall social care funding.

However, the Government have taken the decision to simplify and streamline grant funding to local government, by rolling around £4 billion of specific grants in 2010-11 into the unhypothecated formula grant and reducing grants for local government from over 90 to fewer than 10. This includes £2.4 billion of social care grants.

Streamlining local government funding will enable local authorities to redirect funds to protect the delivery of the essential frontline services that matter most to their local communities. Local authorities must be accountable primarily to their communities for how they prioritise resources. It will also allow councils to pool and align budgets with partners, reducing duplication and enabling resources to be targeted at the most effective solutions.

The national health service will also make funding available to be spent on measures that support social care, which also benefits health. This funding will be up to £1 billion in 2014-15. We will set out more detail on how the NHS should use this funding to support social care in the '2011-12 Operating Framework'. There will, therefore, be more funding hypothecated specifically for social care in the upcoming spending review period than this year.

Surgery: South East

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many operations were cancelled in hospitals, in each primary care trust area in the south-east in each year since 2005. [21089]

Mr Simon Burns: The number of operations cancelled in hospitals in the south-east area, which includes both the South East Coast and South Central strategic health authorities (SHAs), in each year since 2005 is shown in the following tables.

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in South East Coast 2005-10

	Number of last minute cancelations for non clinical reasons					
Name	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Ashford and St Peter's Hospitals NHS Trust	427	429	491	366	374	114
Brighton and Sussex University Hospitals NHS Trust	492	302	244	291	407	149
Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust	116	112	90	152	122	68
East Kent Hospitals University NHS Trust	244	345	271	312	353	253
East Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	671	197	178	287	398	234
Frimley Park Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	238	174	238	248	257	154
Maidstone and Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust	816	1,056	1,080	831	453	134
Medway NHS Foundation Trust	178	75	110	129	175	119
Queen Victoria Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	43	31	42	93	103	37
Royal Surrey County Hospital NHS Trust	214	220	185	205	336	220
Royal West Sussex NHS Trust	210	170	116	152	40	—
Surrey and Sussex Healthcare NHS Trust	369	229	315	182	236	160

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in South East Coast 2005-10

	Number of last minute cancelations for non clinical reasons					
Name	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Worthing and Southlands Hospitals NHS Trust	262	347	331	308	78	—
Western Sussex Hospitals NHS Trust	—	—	—	—	242	177

[1] Year to date

Cancelled operations for non clinical reasons, NHS organisations in South Central 2005-10

	Number of last minute cancellations for non clinical reasons					
Name	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*[1]
Basingstoke and North Hampshire NHS Foundation Trust	137	78	74	82	113	27
Buckinghamshire Hospitals NHS Trust	551	322	332	493	348	173
Hampshire Primary Care Trust (PCT)	—	2	16	30	41	0
Heatherwood and Wexham Park Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust	511	474	430	507	547	413
Isle of Wight NHS PCT	—	26	138	133	87	59
Milton Keynes Hospital NHS Foundation Trust	245	273	221	167	203	100
Nuffield Orthopaedic Centre NHS Trust	144	81	60	56	73	28
Oxford Radcliffe Hospitals NHS Trust	1,202	942	702	495	806	447
Portsmouth Hospitals NHS Trust	335	335	335	309	375	191
Royal Berkshire NHS Foundation Trust	95	84	108	50	313	251
Southampton University Hospitals NHS Trust	857	750	817	706	925	453
Winchester and Eastleigh Healthcare NHS Trust	350	296	365	209	191	28

[1] Year to date

Note:

On 1 April 2009, Royal West Sussex NHS Trust merged with Worthing and Southlands NHS Trust to form Western Sussex NHS Trust

Source:

Department of Health dataset QMCO

UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

Andrew George: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps his Department is taking to implement obligations under articles 10, 15, 17, 19, 20, 25 and 26 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in relation to his Department's policy responsibilities. [21124]

Paul Burstow: Like every other country that has ratified the convention, the United Kingdom is required to report to the United Nations Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities about what it has done to implement it. The Office for Disability Issues (ODI) is responsible for co-ordinating the UK Government's work on the convention, including the UK Government report which is due to be submitted to the UN Committee by July 2011.

The Department is working with the ODI to involve stakeholders in the implementation, monitoring and reporting processes. For example, we have worked with stakeholders to facilitate workshops in the past few months and will feed their input to the ODI reporting process.

Voluntary Organisations

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made of the effects of his Department's spending reductions on the statutory services provided by voluntary organisations; and if he will make a statement. [20605]

Paul Burstow: Voluntary sector organisations play vital roles in health and social care, delivering innovative, high quality, user-focused services, and achieving outcomes that can provide real social value. They have a strong track record of designing services based on insight into clients' needs, to which they are often well placed to respond flexibly to those needs.

It is not possible to conduct a comprehensive assessment of the impact that spending reductions will have on statutory services provided by voluntary and community organisations because of the multitude of different contractual relationships this sector has with public bodies at different levels.

However, the recent spending review makes no cuts to the health budget. As set out in the "Operating Framework for the NHS in England 2010-11", the Department plans to make a phased move towards an 'Any Willing Provider' model for community services, which will address barriers and open up opportunities for future statutory provision by independent and voluntary sector providers.

The spending review also recognises the importance of social care in protecting the most vulnerable in society. In recognition of the pressures on the social care system in a challenging local government settlement, the coalition Government have allocated an additional £2 billion by 2014-15 to support the delivery of social care. This means, with an ambitious programme of efficiency, that there is enough funding available both to protect people's access to services and deliver new approaches to improve quality and outcomes.

As transition to these new arrangements takes place, we are promoting restraint in budget cuts to this sector and good practice in the commissioning and decommissioning of services, with due regard for the principles of the Compact.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

Big Society Initiative

Andrew Rosindell: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what plans his Department has to contribute to the Big Society initiative. [20820]

Mr Vaizey: The Government's ambitions for DCMS, including its contribution to the Big Society, are set out in its Structural Reform Plan published on 15 July, which can be found on the DCMS website:

http://www.culture.gov.uk/publications/7246.aspx

The Plan will form a key part of the Department's wider Business Plan, which we intend to publish shortly, now that the spending review has concluded.

Broadband: Pilot Schemes

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what meetings *(a)* he and *(b)* his officials had with representatives of the devolved Administration on superfast broadband pilot areas prior to the announcement of pilot areas made on pages 65-6 of the spending review, Cm 7942. [21075]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills did not have any meetings with representatives of the Welsh Assembly Government about the superfast broadband pilots prior to their selection, but his officials had regular dialogue with all the devolved Administrations and regional development agencies prior to the selection of the superfast broadband pilots.

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 264W, on broadband, if he will publish the marks against each set of criteria and total mark given to each of the 11 locations proposed for the superfast broadband pilot. [21173]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply in my capacity as a Minister in the Department for Business, Innovation and Skills.

The selection process involved making a judgment as to which of the projects proposed offered the best opportunities for learning that would inform the UK wide deployment strategy. This process did not involve awarding specific marks against the individual criteria.

Museums and Galleries: Fees and Charges

Kate Hoey: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will consider the merits of allowing these museums and galleries which have a free entry policy to charge non-UK visitors an entry charge. [20651]

Mr Vaizey: In line with the coalition manifesto there are no plans to review the policy of free admission to national museums and galleries.

Under European Union law, institutions cannot discriminate between domestic and European Union visitors to our museums and galleries. Article 12 of the European Community Treaty prohibits any discrimination on grounds of nationality.

Television: Licensing

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost to the public purse and *(b)* income from television licences foregone by the BBC of revising the television licensing guidelines to allow women's refuges and shelters to hold one television licence per establishment. [21026]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 1 November 2010]*: No assessment has been made. Concessionary licences were reviewed in the last BBC Charter review and the conclusion was that there should be no change to the existing range of concessions.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Access to Work Programme

Rehman Chishti: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department plans to make available to the Access to Work programme in each of the next five years. [19995]

Maria Miller: The spending review announced a settlement in the region of £7.8 billion per year for DWP. As part of our planning process we are currently allocating funding to individual budgets including Access to Work.

Atos Healthcare

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what mechanisms his Department has in place to ensure the quality of medical reports produced on its behalf by Atos Healthcare. [20926]

Chris Grayling: The contract between the Department for Work and Pensions and Atos Healthcare contains a number of quality indicators to measure the performance of health care professionals which are monitored on a monthly basis. Quality and accuracy is regularly monitored through a variety of methods including monthly management information, customer satisfaction surveys and feedback from complaints. The work of all health care professionals is subjected to quality audit which is conducted by experienced medical auditors within Atos Healthcare. The quality of Atos Healthcare's audit is validated by senior medical auditors from Atos Healthcare and doctors working for the chief medical adviser to the Department for Work and Pensions.

Carers

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with national carers' organisations on the continued implementation of the national carers' strategy; and if he will make a statement. [20918]

Maria Miller: Meetings with representative organisations have been held at ministerial and official level to discuss carers' issues in the context of the carers strategy.

In addition, a 'call for evidence' exercise has been undertaken by the Department of Health, with national and local organisations as well as with carers themselves. This consultation sought their views on the key priorities for carers and concluded on 20 September 2010.

The responses from the consultation are currently being considered by the Department of Health and will help establish the key priorities that will be the focus of an updated carers strategy to be published later this year.

Carer's Allowance

Ian Swales: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he plans to review the eligibility criteria for carer's allowance. [20159]

Maria Miller: The Government recognise that the United Kingdom's six million carers play an indispensable role in looking after family members or friends who need support.

We have set out our commitment to simplify the benefit system in order to improve work incentives and encourage responsibility and fairness. We will consider carefully the needs of carers as we develop our thinking on welfare reform.

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether partners of higher rate taxpayers will receive carer's credit once they are no longer eligible to receive child benefit. [20518]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead (Teresa Pearce) on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 643W.

Children: Maintenance

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on the position of *(a)* single parents without a new partner and *(b)* parents with new families under split care arrangements. [18448]

Maria Miller: A large proportion of the Child Support Agency's caseload (for which the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission has responsibility) are single parents without new partners. The Government have had no direct conversations with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission on this issue but we do monitor performance on a regular basis.

Split care in child maintenance, also known as 'shared care', is a complex issue. Alongside the coalition agreement's goals to support families and end child poverty, the Government are committed to encouraging shared parenting from the earliest stages of pregnancy, including where parents do not live together. The Government are discussing with the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission the role they can play in achieving these broader objectives.

Client Funds Account

Joan Walley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to publish the Client Funds Account for *(a)* 2008-09 and *(b)* 2009-10. [19819]

Maria Miller: The Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission is responsible for the child maintenance system. I have asked the Child Maintenance Commissioner to write to the hon. Member with the information requested and I have seen the response.

Letter from Stephen Geraghty:

In reply to your recent Parliamentary Question about the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Secretary of State promised a substantive reply from the Child Maintenance Commissioner.

You asked the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when does he plan to publish the Client Funds Account for (a) 2008-09 and (b) 2009-10. [19819]

Following the transfer of the Child Support Agency's functions to the Child Maintenance and Enforcement Commission, the Commission undertook an extensive programme of work around client funds to enable the publication of the accounts for 2008/09 and 2009/10. The Commission is confident that this work provides a more accurate picture of maintenance arrears and a more robust view of the arrears that are likely to be collected. While this work has taken longer than expected, the Commission is now working with the National Audit Office to finalise both accounts, and hopes to publish them in the near future.

Depression: Access to Work

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that people with depression are able to participate in the *(a)* access to work and *(b)* pathways to work programme. [20535]

Chris Grayling: Disability employment programmes, including access to work and pathways, are designed to support disabled people regardless of their disability. As such, people with depression are able to participate in both programmes.

The Government will be phasing out many existing programmes, including pathways to work, as it introduces the Work programme. The Government aim to have the Work programme in place nationally by the summer of 2011. We want to ensure that as many people benefit from the Work programme as quickly as possible, including those suffering from depression.

Disability Assessments

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many disability assessments his Department carried out in each month of the last two years; how many appeals were lodged against the outcomes of such assessments in each such year; and how many of these appeals were upheld. [20075]

Maria Miller: The following table presents the number of assessments carried out for the work capability assessment for employment and support allowance by the month assessment was completed up to the end of June 2010 (the latest data available). Repeat assessments and clerical assessments are excluded from these figures. This is because the results of repeat assessments and clerically completed assessments cannot be determined from departmental benefits data.

Month of assessment	*Total assessments*
2008	
October	0
November	100
December	1,000
2009	
January	3,300
February	6,600
March	14,900
April	16,300
May	21,300
June	33,000
July	35,000
August	33,100
September	32,500
October	35,200
November	37,100
December	30,400

Month of assessment	*Total assessments*
2010	
January	34,400
February	36,600
March	40,900
April	34,300
May	36,800
June	41,900
Total	524,700

The following table presents data on ESA claims up to the end of August 2009 where the person claiming has been found Fit for Work, appealed the Department's decision and had an appeal heard by Tribunals Service by the end of July 2010 (the latest data we have from Tribunals Service). The number of appeals heard for claims started after August 2009 are too low for inclusion at this stage but will be included in future updates to the publication as more appeals are heard.

Total ESA work capability assessments, WCA outcomes and appeals against a fit for work decision at initial WCA by ESA claim start date

Month ESA claim started	*Total WCA*	*Support group*	*Work related activity group*	*Fit for work*	*Appeals heard (to date)*	*% fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant*	*DWP decision upheld*	*% decision in favour of appellant*	*% DWP decision upheld*
2008										
October	5,500	700	1,200	3,600	1,400	39	600	900	40	60
November	26,300	2,900	5,900	17,500	7,000	40	2,700	4,200	39	61
December	23,300	2,600	5,600	15,100	6,200	41	2,500	3,700	40	60
2009										
January	31,700	3,200	7,600	20,900	8,500	40	3,400	5,100	40	60
February	29,700	2,900	7,100	19,700	7,600	38	3,100	4,500	40	60
March	34,900	3,300	8,300	23,300	8,700	37	3,500	5,200	40	60
April	33,000	3,200	8,100	21,700	7,500	35	3,100	4,400	41	59
May	33,200	3,200	8,100	21,900	6,900	32	2,700	4,200	40	60
June	34,600	3,300	8,700	22,600	6,300	28	2,500	3,800	40	60
July	35,400	3,700	9,000	22,700	5,500	24	2,100	3,400	37	63
August	32,000	3,300	8,400	20,300	4,100	20	1,500	2,600	37	63
Total	319,600	32,300	78,100	209,200	69,500	33	27,500	42,000	40	60

This information is taken from official statistics published by the Department for Work and Pensions, last updated October 2010. The report can be found on the departmental website at:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

Disability Impact Assessment

Mr Watts: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has carried out *(a)* a disability impact assessment and *(b)* any other impact on the effect of his proposed changes to benefits on disabled individuals and families. [20834]

Chris Grayling: Public authorities are legally obliged to pay due regard to the promotion of equality in carrying out their functions. These duties mean that all public bodies need to consider the impact of their decisions on people with disabilities when these decisions are made. The Department carries out equality impact assessments to ensure that the impact of decisions on people with disabilities, as well as other groups such as people from ethnic minorities, is taken into account.

The equality impact assessment for the reassessment of old-style incapacity benefits customers is available at:

http://www.legislation.gov.uk/uksi/2010/875/pdfs/uksiem_20100875_en.pdf

The equality impact assessment concluded that the reassessment would have considerable significance for disabled people, but that disabled people would not be exposed to particular risk.

An equality impact assessment was carried out for the measures announced in the 2010 spending review. This is available at:

http://www.hm-treasury.gov.uk/spend_sr2010_equalities.htm

The impact of the proposal to time-limit contributory employment and support allowance for customers in the work related activity group is included in this equality impact assessment. The equality impact assessment is clear that some people with a disability will be affected by the time-limit for contributory employment and support allowance, but that this will be mitigated for the most severely disabled and those on low incomes as neither the support group nor customers in receipt of income related employment and support allowance will be subject to the time limit. A full equality impact for the proposal to time-limit contributory employment and support allowance for customers in the work related activity group will be published as a part of the equality impact assessment for the Welfare Reform Bill.

The proposed changes to disability living allowance will be introduced as a part of the forthcoming Welfare Reform Bill. An equality impact assessment for all changes to disability living allowance will be published as a part of the equality impact assessment for the Welfare Reform Bill.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment his Department has made of the potential effect on the number of users of Motability cars of the removal of the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people in residential care. [19513]

Maria Miller: It is estimated that around 8,000 users of the Motability scheme will be affected by the removal of the mobility component of disability living allowance for people already in receipt of state funding for some, or all of their care costs in the form of local authority care packages. The Department will be discussing the proposed measure with Motability to enable them to decide how best they can manage the impact of this change on their customers.

Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

Disability Living Allowance: Learning Disability

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* England and *(b)* Easington constituency with a learning disability he estimates will be affected by proposals to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance for those who live in residential care homes; and if he will make a statement. [20980]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of main disabling condition, including learning disabilities, for disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available. Reliable estimate of numbers of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available other than on a Great Britain wide basis. We estimate approximately 60,000 people who claim DLA and live in residential care will be affected by this measure in Great Britain.

Local authority contracts with care homes should cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

Disability Living Allowance: Scotland

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority area and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by removing the mobility component of disability living allowance for people in residential care. [19352]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available other than on a Great Britain wide basis. We estimate approximately 60,000 people who claim DLA and live in residential care will be affected by this measure in Great Britain.

Employment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what employment legislation his Department is responsible; and what progress his Department has made on the Government's proposed review of employment law. [18928]

Chris Grayling: BIS is responsible for most employment law. DWP has responsibility for a small number of areas of regulation that place obligations on employers. These include occupational pensions, statutory sickness and maternity payments, employers' liability insurance, and health and safety law.

Most of these areas have been subject to review since 2007 in order to ensure that they do not place unnecessary burdens on business. We will consider these areas again over the long-term as part of post-implementation reviews of changes made, and will engage with interested parties as part of the that process.

Employment and Support Allowance: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people in Peterborough constituency received *(a)* employment and support allowance and *(b)* incapacity benefit in each quarter since June 2005; and if he will make a statement. [21034]

Chris Grayling: The information is provided as follows:

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants in Peterborough constituency each quarter from May 2005

	Peterborough constituency	
	Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance	*Employment and support allowance*
May 2005	4,770	n/a
August 2005	4,780	n/a
November 2005	4,720	n/a
February 2006	4,720	n/a
May 2006	4,750	n/a
August 2006	4,740	n/a
November 2006	4,730	n/a
February 2007	4,740	n/a
May 2007	4,810	n/a
August 2007	4,850	n/a
November 2007	4,890	n/a
February 2008	4,900	n/a
May 2008	4,900	n/a
August 2008	4,960	n/a

Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance and employment and support allowance claimants in Peterborough constituency each quarter from May 2005

	Peterborough constituency	
	Incapacity benefit and severe disablement allowance	*Employment and support allowance*
November 2008	4,890	100
February 2009	4,660	290
May 2009	4,510	560
August 2009	4,380	800
November 2009	4,310	920
February 2010	4,400	1,120

Notes:

1. Incapacity benefit was replaced by employment support allowance (ESA) for new claimants from October 2008. It is not possible to receive IBSDA and ESA at the same time.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10, some additional disclosure has been applied.
3. Constituencies used for February 2010 are for the Westminster Parliament of May 2010. Prior to this the constituencies used are for May 2005.
4. IB/SDA 'Claimants' include people in receipt of benefit and also those who fail the contributions conditions but receive a national insurance credit, ie 'credits only cases'.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study 100% data.

Employment Schemes: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 156W, on employment schemes: Peterborough, for what reason the number of completers in respect of the schemes listed have not been collected; and if he will make a statement. [20646]

Chris Grayling: The data source (Jobcentre Plus Labour Market System) for the DWP led elements of the young person's guarantee official statistics does not contain robust information on Community Task Force completions.

We do not currently have quality assured statistics on the number of completers of the BIS elements (routes into work and work focused training) of the young person's guarantee. We will look to develop these statistics for publication in January 2011.

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the number of people in Peterborough constituency who will be invited to participate in the Work programme; and if he will make a statement. [21090]

Chris Grayling: The spending review confirmed the Government's commitment to welfare reform, and to the introduction of the Work programme. The Work Programme will provide more personalised back to work support for long-term unemployed people and for those with more significant barriers to employment.

The Department are currently working through the full implications of the spending review for the Work programme and further announcements on the customers eligible for support and their entry points to the programme will be made in due course.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make an estimate of the effects on residents of Argyll and Bute constituency of his proposed changes to housing benefit arrangements. [21408]

Steve Webb: The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on the 23 July, which includes analysis at the local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Incapacity Benefit: Applications

James Wharton: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what proportion of incapacity benefit claimants claim *(a)* on the grounds of multiple illnesses or conditions and *(b)* for a single condition. [18105]

Chris Grayling: The Department does not hold information on people claiming incapacity benefits with or without multiple conditions. The Department holds information on the primary condition recorded at the start of the benefit claim but it should be noted that this is not the basis for entitlement. People do not qualify for ESA on the grounds of their condition but on the grounds of their functional impairment. Data published in August 2010 on the WCA by health condition and function:

http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/workingage/esa_wca/index.php?page=esa_wca_arc

show how many people qualified for the Work Related Activity Group (WRAG) by scoring points in each of the functional impairment groups at the work capability assessment.

These groups are functional activities relating to:

Lower Limb
Upper Limb
Sensory
Continence
Consciousness
Understanding and Focus
Adapting to Change
Social Interaction.

If we look at how many people scored in only one functional group or more than one functional group the split is:

48% scored in just one of the categories
52% scored in more than one.

Note that these figures are only for people who are placed in the WRAG after a face to face assessment. It does not include people who are not scored (mainly people in the support group, those placed in the WRAG without requiring a face to face assessment and people in the WRAG after appeal) or those who do not score enough points (found fit for work) or who leave ESA before any assessment takes place. However, the majority of people in the WRAG are there after scoring 15 points or more at a face to face WCA.

Jobcentre Plus

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many discretionary payments of less than £5 were made by Jobcentre Plus in each year since 2005. [21242]

Chris Grayling: The information requested is not readily available centrally and can be collated only at disproportionate costs.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of people in Bridgend constituency who *(a)* claim support for mortgage interest and *(b)* receive less in support for mortgage interest payments than the cost of their mortgage interest. [19074]

Steve Webb: The information requested is as follows:

(a) The information requested is not available at parliamentary constituency level. Information on support for mortgage interest is only available from 5% sample data, and the sample sizes at parliamentary constituency level are too small to provide a robust estimate.

The information is available at Government Office region level. At February 2010 there were 15,100 claims for support for mortgage interest in Wales.

Notes:

1. Figures have been uprated using 100% Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study totals.

2. Figures have been rounded to the nearest100.

3. Information on claimants receiving help with mortgage interest payments is derived from a 5% sample of claimants, which is subject to sampling variation.

4. Totals may not sum due to rounding.

5. Rules for customers making a claim for mortgage interest changed from 5 January 2009. From this date customers have to serve a waiting period of 13 weeks before housing costs are paid, at which time 100% of their eligible mortgage interest could be paid. IS and JSA(IB) customers with partners aged over pension credit age and those in receipt of pension credit do not have to serve a waiting period.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate 5% samples

(b) This information is not available because the Department does not collect management information on the actual interest rates that apply to support for mortgage interest customers' loans.

Motability

Mr George Howarth: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what funding his Department has provided for Motability cars in each of the last five years; how many such cars were in use in each such year; what funding he plans to allocate to the scheme in each year to 2014-15; and what requirement his Department places upon provider charities to obtain value for money from such funding. [20100]

Maria Miller: Motability is an independent charitable organisation and is wholly responsible for the administration of the Motability Scheme. Motability is largely self financed and the only funding the Department for Work and Pensions gives the scheme relates to the Specialised Vehicles Fund, which Motability administers on our behalf. The Specialised Vehicles Fund provides financial assistance to those severely disabled scheme customers who require complex vehicle adaptations that allow them to enter a car as a passenger while remaining seated in their wheelchair or enables them drive their car while seated in their wheelchair. Information on the number of Motability car scheme customers, the amount of funding the scheme received in respect of the Specialised Vehicles Fund and how many cars were adapted as a result of this financial assistance in each of the last five years is contained in the following tables. No decision has been reached on funding for the Specialised Vehicles Fund from 2011-12 onwards.

Independent analysis commissioned by Motability indicates that the car scheme is typically 35% cheaper on a like-for-like basis than other lease providers for the same car models. This reflects the scheme's economies of scale and the significant discounts it is able to negotiate as a result. Motability provides regular updates to the Department in respect of the Specialised Vehicles Fund and continues to work with vehicle manufacturers, the adaptation industry and other business partners to deliver the best possible value for its disabled customers.

Number of Motability car scheme customers in each of the last five years

	Number
2005-06	434,147
2006-07	460,149
2007-08	489,414
2008-09	519,932
2009-10	549,059

Funding for the Specialised Vehicle Fund and the number of wheelchair passenger and drive from wheelchair cars helped by the fund over the last five years

	Funding (£ million)	*Number of drive from wheelchair cars*	*Number of wheelchair passenger cars*
2005-06	8.615	64	1,143
2006-07	9.087	67	1,714
2007-08	12.7	204	2,218
2008-09	17.036	253	1,559
2009-10	17.036	286	2,068

Pensions: Child Benefit

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether all mothers entitled to receive contributions to *(a)* a basic and *(b)* a second state pension under the provisions of the Pensions Act 2007 until their youngest child reaches the age of 12 will continue to do so following the proposed changes to child benefit. [20733]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead (Teresa Pearce) on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 643W.

Social Security Benefits: Appeals

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 821-22W, on social security benefits: appeals, what the cost to the public purse was of rejection of the 31,600 claims for employment support allowance made between October 2008 and June 2009 which were subsequently allowed on appeal. [17962]

Chris Grayling: The appeals process against work capability assessment (WCA) decisions relating to employment and support allowance (ESA) is partly handled by Jobcentre Plus, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, with the majority of the process being handled by the Tribunals Service, part of the Ministry of Justice.

While the Tribunals Service are unable to break down the exact full costs of tribunals for specific benefit types, the average unit cost of clearing a social security and child support appeal, on the basis of an average Tribunal Panel that would hear such cases and all associated administration costs of processing the case, is £293. Therefore, the cost of disposing of 31,600 appeals is approximately £9 million.

The average direct staff unit cost within Jobcentre Plus of an ESA Appeal is approximately £55. Therefore the cost to Jobcentre Plus of administering 31,600 appeals is approximately £2 million.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Mr Knight: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions which local authorities use voice risk analysis to help detect benefit fraud; and what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of that technology in the latest year for which figures are available. [19458]

Chris Grayling: In 2008-09 a total of £1,734,314.07 was paid directly to the 24 local authorities involved in voice risk analysis pilots. There was no DWP funding for voice risk analysis in subsequent years. The pilots finished in December 2009. Local authorities can continue to use voice risk analysis at their own discretion and at their own expense.

Table of participating pilot local authorities

Aberdeen city council
LB Barking and Dagenham
Basildon council
LB Bexley
Birmingham city council
Bristol city council
Bromsgrove council
Bury metropolitan council
Coventry city council
Durham council
Doncaster metropolitan council
Eastbourne council
Edinburgh city council
Flintshire council
Glasgow city council
LB Harrow
LB Lambeth
Lichfield council
Northamptonshire Shared Service
Swindon council
Vale of Glamorgan
Walsall council
Warwick council
Royal borough of Windsor and Maidenhead.

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what criteria will be used to determine the awarding of contracts to private sector companies to implement the fraud prevention techniques referred in the Government's fraud and error strategy; and at what level performance-related pay for such services will be set. [20392]

Chris Grayling: The Department's new joint strategy with HMRC for tackling welfare fraud and error was published on 18 October 2010. The strategy contains a wide range of measures including plans to build partnerships with private sector firms, such as credit reference agencies, to radically increase the range of third party data on our customers that is used to counter welfare fraud and error.

As part of implementing the strategy with regard to access and use of third-party data, we will be developing specific requirements and associated evaluation criteria prior to engaging with interested private sector companies. It is therefore too early to confirm details of the criteria or the commercial arrangements

Social Security Benefits: Medical Examinations

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many and what proportion of refusals of applications for benefits of each type based on medical examinations commissioned by his Department were subsequently overturned on appeal in the latest period for which figures are available. [20927]

Chris Grayling: The following table shows the information immediately available: the number of employment and support allowance fit for work decisions at initial assessment, the number and proportion of appeals heard to date that relate to the fit for work decision and the number and proportion where the appellant was successful.

I will write to the hon. Member with information regarding information on incapacity benefit later this month and a copy of my letter will be placed in the Library of the House.

Month ESA claim started	*Fit for work (number)*	*Appeals heard to date (number)*	*Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant (number)*	*DWP decision upheld (number)*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage decision upheld*
2008							
October	3,600	1,400	39	600	900	40	60
November	17,500	7,000	40	2,700	4,200	39	61
December	15,100	6,200	41	2,500	3,700	40	60

Month ESA claim started	*Fit for work (number)*	*Appeals heard to date (number)*	*Percentage fit for work with an appeal heard (to date)*	*Decision in favour of appellant (number)*	*DWP decision upheld (number)*	*Percentage decision in favour of appellant*	*Percentage decision upheld*
2009							
January	20,900	8,500	40	3,400	5,100	40	60
February	19,700	7,600	38	3,100	4,500	40	60
March	23,300	8,700	37	3,500	5,200	40	60
April	21,700	7,500	35	3,100	4,400	41	59
May	21,900	6,900	32	2,700	4,200	40	60
June	22,600	6,300	28	2,500	3,800	40	60
July	22,700	5,500	24	2,100	3,400	37	63
August	20,300	4,100	20	1,500	2,600	37	63
Total	209,200	69,500	33	27,500	42,000	40	60

1. Data are rounded to the nearest 100. 2. The breakdown is presented by month of ESA claim start. 3. For claims that began after August 2009 due to the time it takes to assess a claim and for a subsequent appeal to be heard (if applicable) appeal figures are low and not representative. Note however that the number of appeals presented in the table will continue to increase as more appeals are processed.

The table above uses data on appeals heard to the end of July 2010—the latest available.

Social Security Benefits: Students

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he plans to bring forward proposals to enable employment support allowance to be available immediately to students who suspend their studies due to a health condition or disability. [20139]

Maria Miller *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* Students are not normally eligible for social security benefits as they should be supported by the higher education system. However, there are exceptions which enable disabled students receiving disability living allowance to receive employment and support allowance. Disability living allowance is not normally payable before a three month qualifying period. The Government have no plans for allowing exceptions to these rules in respect of students.

When a student becomes too ill to continue their course and so abandons it, they are no longer treated as a student and may apply for ESA immediately. From November 2010, students who become too ill to continue with their studies and, with the agreement of the university or college authorities, suspend (rather than abandon) their participation on the course will no longer be treated as having a student loan available to them when working out how much they may be entitled to. If a student suspends a course in those circumstances and has drawn-down their loan, we will only take it into account for the period the loan is intended to cover.

Therapeutic Earnings

Damian Hinds: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations he has received on the maximum allowable limit for therapeutic earnings. [20621]

Maria Miller: Incapacity benefit therapeutic earnings limits were replaced by permitted work earnings limits in April 2002. Customers on incapacity benefit and employment and support allowance are allowed to earn up to £95.00 a week for up to 52 weeks without their benefit being affected provided they do not work for more than 16 hours a week on average.

Representations received in response to the Government's recent '21st Century Welfare' consultation document (published on 30 July 2010) are supportive of our proposed reform of benefit rules across the social security system which is designed to ensure that it pays to be in work for everyone in benefits.

Unemployment Benefits

Sajid Javid: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many individuals were continuously in receipt of out-of-work benefits between 1 June 1997 and 31 May 2010. [18862]

Chris Grayling: The information is as follows:

Number of people claiming jobseeker's allowance, incapacity benefit/severe disability allowance or income support continuously since 1997, GB and abroad, as of February 2010

February 2010	*Number*
Jobseeker's allowance	260
Incapacity benefits	588,980
All other income support	59,480

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10 and totals may not sum due to rounding.
2. Benefits are arranged hierarchically and claimants are assigned to the topmost benefit which they receive.
3. For this analysis the claim start date has been used.
4. Jobseeker—claimant of jobseeker's allowance.
5. Incapacity benefits—claimant of either incapacity benefit or severe disablement allowance.
6. Income support—claimants of income support not included in the incapacity benefits figure. Figure includes 2,578 with a declared income from less than 16 hours a week work.
7. Analysis excludes claimants who have flowed between benefits.

Source:

DWP Information Directorate: Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study.

Unemployment: Rural Areas

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent assessment he has made of the level of access to transport for unemployed people seeking work in remote rural and valley areas; and if he will make a statement. [20063]

Chris Grayling: It is an integral part of the role of advisers in Jobcentre Plus to take account of local transport issues when advising unemployed people seeking work on the options available. All claimants should be willing to take employment within a reasonable travel to work area. The local travel to work area is determined by each individual Jobcentre, taking into account the availability of local transport facilities.

Broader policy regarding the role of transport in supporting regional economies is the responsibility of local authorities and other local bodies. National transport policy is the responsibility of the Department for Transport and the devolved Administrations.

Winter Fuel Payments

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will make it his policy to maintain the winter fuel payment at no less than its current rate in the period after 2011. [20979]

Steve Webb: Decisions on the rate of winter fuel payments for future winters are generally made as part of the annual Budget cycle.

Work Capability Assessment

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had on accurate reflections of claimants' conditions in the outcomes of work capability assessments. [21372]

Chris Grayling: Firstly, it is important to note that the work capability assessment (WCA) is not condition-based. Rather than making assumptions about someone's capability for work based on their condition, it looks at their functional ability. This is because a health condition or disability will affect people in different ways and at different levels of severity, and we do not want to write people off by assuming that their health condition or disability is a barrier to work.

From March 2009 to March 2010, the Department led a review of the WCA, which engaged with medical and other experts and specialist disability groups. It conducted detailed case-study analysis, and concluded that generally the WCA is accurately assessing individuals for the right benefit. It also made a number of recommendations for improving the assessment, which we have accepted and plan to implement from spring 2011.

In addition, we have commissioned Professor Malcolm Harrington to undertake the first of five independent reviews of the operation of the WCA. He is supported by a small scrutiny group which includes Paul Farmer, chief executive of Mind. Professor Harrington is evaluating the fairness and accuracy of the assessment. We look forward to receiving his report later this year and will give careful consideration to his recommendations. Where necessary, we will make changes to improve the WCA.

Written Answers to Questions

Wednesday 3 November 2010

TRANSPORT

Anglian Prince Tugboat

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what impact assessment his Department conducted prior to taking its decision to remove the service provided by the Stornoway base in relation to the removal of the Anglian Prince tugboat. [20296]

Mike Penning: Prior to taking the decision to discontinue the provision of publicly funded emergency towing vessels (ETV), the Department for Transport undertook an assessment of the changes that have taken place in the maritime environment, together with a consideration of the frequency with which ETVs have been tasked to assist vessels that have got into difficulty.

The Government believes this is properly a matter for commercial shipowners and the insurers, using the services of commercial towing vessels.

Accordingly, the Government have judged that the risk in not renewing the ETV contract from September 2011 is acceptable in the light of the need to reduce the fiscal deficit.

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport where the nearest to Na h-Eileanan an Iar Maritime and Coastal Authority funded tug will be based after the removal of the Stornoway-based Anglian Prince tugboat service; and if he will make a statement. [20297]

Mike Penning: As part of the strategy for reducing the fiscal deficit the Government have decided that it is no longer appropriate to maintain provision of publicly funded Emergency Towing Vessels (ETV).

The current contract for ETVs expires in September 2011, following which MCA funding for ETVs will be withdrawn.

Commercial tugs operate in a variety of locations around the UK and the Government would expect shipowners and insurers to make use of them.

Departmental Secondment

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport how many staff his Department has appointed on secondment since 7 May 2010; and from what organisation each such member of staff has been seconded. [16267]

Norman Baker: Since 19 May 2010 the Department for Transport has been subject to a recruitment freeze. However, since 7 May 2010, due to a business critical need in developing transport policy, Department for Transport has appointed three secondees. These individuals were appointed at no cost to the Department.

It is the policy of the Cabinet Office to withhold data which could identify an individual. Because the number of secondees is below five, I am unable to provide information on the organisations they have come from.

Driving: Licensing

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will direct the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency not to initiate proceedings in respect of the late licensing penalty demand issued to Ms Maxine Bennett, a constituent of the hon. Member for Birmingham, Yardley, in respect of the vehicle with registration mark N182 JUG. [21183]

Mike Penning: I am satisfied with the actions taken by the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency.

National Express: Correspondence

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will place in the Library a copy of each item of correspondence between his Department and National Express on *(a)* the Greater Anglia franchise, *(b)* rail fares on that franchise, *(c)* timetable changes on that franchise and *(d)* the National Station Improvement Programme for stations covered by that franchise since 2008. [18815]

Mrs Villiers: The Department for Transport is in daily contact with National Express East Anglia (NXEA) and as such the volume of correspondence is extremely high. Much of this correspondence is commercially sensitive to NXEA and/or the Department and would not be appropriate to be placed in the public domain. The task of sorting documentation that can be released means that the information could be provided only at disproportionate cost.

Passenger Ships: Liverpool

Mrs Ellman: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what recent discussions he has had with Liverpool City Council on the provision of a cruise line turn-around facility in Liverpool. [20917]

Mike Penning *[holding answer 1 November 2010]*: The Secretary of State and I have had no discussions with Liverpool city council on this matter. I am considering a recent proposal presented by Liverpool city council requesting that the grant condition of allowing only port of call use at the facility is relaxed so that the city cruise terminal is able to operate turnaround cruise.

Railways: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what capital projects he expects to begin on railway lines in *(a)* Kent and *(b)* Maidstone and the Weald constituency before 2015. [21593]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the spending review on 20 October, the Government are still finalising their position regarding a number of rail projects. An announcement will be made shortly.

Waterloo Station

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport (1) what recent consideration he has given to the *(a)* sale and *(b)* transfer of Waterloo International Terminal to Network Rail; and if he will make a statement; [21807]

(2) if he will take steps to ensure the future use of all Waterloo International Terminal platforms for rail services; [21808]

(3) what plans he has for the future use of Waterloo International Terminal; and if he will make a statement. [21810]

Mrs Villiers: As set out in the spending review on 20 October 2010, Government are still finalising their position regarding a number of rail projects. An announcement is expected to be made shortly.

SCOTLAND

Aviation: Security

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has assessed the effect of airport security measures required by the Department for Transport on the competitiveness of airports in Scotland. [21345]

Michael Moore: The Department for Transport is working towards developing a new regulatory system for aviation security—one where the Government concentrates on setting the security outcomes that need to be achieved, giving operators the freedom to devise the security processes needed to deliver them. That will allow airports to deliver more efficient and passenger-friendly security processes without compromising passenger security.

As the Home Secretary stated in Parliament on 1 November, in the light of the incident at Nottingham East Midlands Airport, additional measures have been put in place in the immediate term. Discussions are in progress on appropriate measures for the longer term.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review; [21547]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies in his Department arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review; [21548]

(3) what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21549]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office does not employ staff directly. All of its staff are on secondment from other public bodies, mainly the Ministry of Justice and the Scottish Government. Redundancy issues are a matter for these parent bodies.

Green Investment Bank

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he last discussed the operation of the proposed Green Investment Bank with the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change. [21344]

Michael Moore: The operation of the Green Investment Bank is the responsibility of my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable). I have regular discussions with him and Cabinet colleagues on a range of matters, including on the Green Investment Bank.

Housing Benefit

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland when he next plans to meet the Confederation of Scottish Local Authorities to discuss the likely effect on local authorities in Scotland of the proposed cap on housing benefit. [21348]

Michael Moore: I am in regular contact with a range of stakeholders on matters concerning housing benefit. As was the case under the previous administration, it is not the Government's practice to divulge Ministers' diary schedules.

Human Rights

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has discussed with the Scottish Executive the application of the provisions of the Human Rights Act 1998 in respect of the judgment of the Supreme Court in Cadder *v.* Her Majesty's Advocate (Scotland). [21346]

Michael Moore: The Secretary of State for Justice and I both engaged with the Scottish Government on the issues raised by this case. The Scottish Government introduced emergency legislation on 26 October and the Bill received Royal Assent on 29 October.

Universities Scotland

Tom Greatrex: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland whether he has discussed with Universities Scotland the effect on Universities Scotland of the Browne review of higher education funding in England. [21347]

Michael Moore: I met representatives from Universities Scotland prior to the publication of Lord Browne's report on 12 October and I am in regular contact with a range of stakeholders on matters concerning higher education in Scotland.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Bridleways: Horse Riding

Simon Hart: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what her policy is on *(a)* horse rider access to bridleways and *(b)* future numbers of bridleways. [20990]

Richard Benyon: DEFRA is keen for horse riders to be able to access more off-road riding to take them away from busy roads. We will use a big society approach, using innovative ways of creating improved bridleway networks, including statutory, permissive and paid access. DEFRA supports equestrian access organisations working strategically with local highway authorities and landowners to deliver real benefits to horse riders.

EC Law

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what estimate she has made of the likely savings to her Department of not operating the sampling plan proposed in article 16 of Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009. [21587]

Richard Benyon: The United Kingdom does not currently carry out sampling plans of the activity of the under 10 metre fleet, nor will we be establishing the sampling plans required by Article 16.2 of Council Regulation 1224/2009. We shall instead continue to monitor the activity of the under 10 metre fleet as a whole, on the basis of sales notes, making use of the derogation available in Article 16.4 of that regulation.

Because of this, we have not considered it necessary to estimate the likely costs to the Department, or to the Marine Management Organisation, of carrying out these sampling plans.

Sheryll Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to require all operators of vessels in the under-10 metre fleet to complete a log book; whether such plans derive from the requirements of Council Regulation (EC) 1224/2009; and what information her Department holds on the implementation of such requirements in other EU member states. [21588]

Richard Benyon: I currently have no plans to require operators of under 10 metre vessels to complete a logbook beyond those that have already been announced. There is no requirement in Council Regulation 1224/2009 for such operators to complete logbooks. However, in the detailed implanting rules currently under negotiation in Brussels, the Commission has included a provision requiring the masters of all under 10 metre vessels to complete monthly catch reports.

Food: Labelling

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what timetable her Department has set for discussions with the food industry on labelling and point of sale information on methods of preparation of meat. [21281]

Mr Paice: No specific timetable has been set for discussions with the food industry on the use of labelling or point of sale information to provide information on methods of preparation, including method of slaughter, of meat. This is a complex and sensitive issue and addressing current concerns, while respecting the religious freedoms of the communities involved, will require very careful consideration. I will be using the regular contact I will have with retail and catering organisations over the coming months to explore these issues further.

Forestry Commission

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs how much of the Forestry Commission woodland estate is held as *(a)* freehold and *(b)* leasehold; and if she will make a statement. [21329]

Mr Paice: As at 31 March 2010 the Forestry Commission public forest estate in England comprised 198,298 hectares of freehold land and 57,692 hectares of leasehold land. The majority of this is woodland, but it also includes associated open habitats, some agricultural land and land used for quarries, car parks and built development.

Livestock: Slaughterhouses

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether she has made a recent assessment of the merits of making mandatory pre-stunning prior to slaughter for farm animals entering the food chain. [20687]

Mr Paice: The UK Government would prefer to see all farm animals stunned before slaughter but accepts the rights of religious communities to eat meat slaughtered in accordance with their religious beliefs. We have not made a recent assessment of the merits of making mandatory pre-stunning prior to slaughter for farm animals entering the food chain. Current and future EU regulations give member states rights to exercise discretion over pre-cut stunning when related to religious slaughter. The UK restricts the practice of slaughter without stunning to slaughterhouses.

Mushrooms

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on the competitive position of the mushroom composting regulations of her recent changes to the regulatory regime affecting the industry. [21074]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* DEFRA is aware of two mushroom farms which both grow mushrooms and make compost for their own use. These were previously eligible for registering an exemption under waste legislation, but since the introduction of the Environmental Permitting Regulations 2010 operators of all on-farm mushroom composting operations must apply for an environmental permit by 1 October 2011. DEFRA is not aware of any competition concerns resulting from this change.

National Parks: Finance

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to ensure transparent arrangements for financial reporting by national parks' authorities. [21280]

Richard Benyon: The National Park Authorities and the Broads Authority operate within a framework of local authority legislation. Each authority is required to submit an annual account and report on the exercise and performance of its functions to DEFRA as soon as possible after the end of the financial year.

The Audit Commission is responsible for the external audit arrangements for the authorities, and in addition each authority is required to maintain adequate and effective internal audit arrangements carried out in accordance with the standards and guidance issued by the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy. The annual report, accounts and audit statements are public documents.

The Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government has announced plans to disband the Audit Commission. The intention is to have new arrangements in place for auditing England's local public bodies, including the National Park Authorities, by 2012-13.

Slaughterhouses: Inspections

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (1) what restrictions there are on *(a)* meat hygiene inspectors and *(b)* abattoir workers assisting such inspectors on taking samples of meat for inspection while on medication; and if she will make a statement; [21388]

(2) for what reason veterinary officers and meat hygiene inspectors are not allowed to sample meat for inspection while they are on medication. [21389]

Anne Milton: I have been asked to reply.

Under Food Standards Agency (FSA) guidance for the collection of samples from licensed slaughterhouses (with respect to sampling undertaken for the veterinary residue National Surveillance Scheme) sampling officers are instructed not to carry out any sampling during the treatment period for the following types of medication:

Type of medication	*Active ingredients*	*May be used in the treatment of:*
Inhaler (containing beta-agonists)	Formoterol	Asthma
	Salbutamol	
	Salmeterol	
Skin creams(containing steroids)	Betamethasone	Skin conditions (e.g. dermatitis)
	Hydrocortisone	
Non-steroidal anti-inflammatory gels	Ibuprofen	Pain relief, headaches, arthritis, fever
Other topical preparations	Antibiotic or anti-inflammatory eye drops	Bacterial eye infections
	Chloramphenicol eye ointment	
Tablets	Steroids	Joint disease, auto-immune disease

In order to maintain continuity of sample collection, traceability and to prevent any cross-contamination it is expected that sampling collection is carried out by authorised FSA staff only.

The aim of the National Surveillance Scheme is to detect whether unauthorised veterinary medicinal products (VMPs) are being used in food producing animals and that the conditions attached to authorised VMPs are being observed. This programme helps to ensure that consumers are protected against potentially harmful residues of veterinary medicines.

Where samples are found to contain residues of VMPs above the permitted maximum residue limit, or where residues of unauthorised substances have been detected, follow up action is required. This will involve an on-farm investigation and, potentially, legal proceedings.

Due to the sensitivity involved in laboratory analytical methods, and the potential of those compounds identified above to cause problems with results, sampling officers are instructed not to carry out sampling during the treatment period.

Swimming Pools

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what plans she has to increase the number of inland bathing water locations under the requirements of the European Bathing Water Directives. [21357]

Richard Benyon: There are 415 bathing waters in England designated under the directive, nine of which are inland sites. DEFRA annually asks local authorities, non-governmental organisations, swimming associations and the public to review existing designations and suggest possible new inland and coastal bathing waters.

Designation of bathing waters in Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland is the responsibility of the relevant devolved Administration.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21544]

Mr Paterson: The Department's settlement letter in respect of the 2010 spending review did not identify funding to meet staff redundancy costs. The Department does not at this stage anticipate redundancies across the spending review period.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies. [21545]

Mr Paterson: The Department does not at this stage anticipate redundancies as a result of its spending reductions proposed in the spending review. It is currently working with its arm's length bodies to manage the outcomes of the spending review.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland what estimate he has made of the costs to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21546]

Mr Paterson: The Department does not at this stage anticipate redundancies across the spending review period.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Daniel Ubani

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Attorney-General what steps the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS) has taken to assess the compatibility of the actions of the German authorities in the case of Dr Daniel Ubani with the requirements of the European Arrest Warrant procedure; and if he will deliver to *(a)* the family of David Gray and *(b)* the hon. Member for North East Cambridgeshire a copy of each paper the CPS examined in the course of that assessment. [21010]

The Solicitor-General *[holding answer 1 November 2010]*: The European Union Framework Decision which provides for the European Arrest Warrant does not create legal requirements about where an individual should be tried where two or more countries have concurrent jurisdiction over the same case. The actions of the German authorities in this case were governed by German law. Eurojust has published guidelines about the factors that should be taken into account when deciding which jurisdiction should prosecute in such cases, but these are not legally binding.

The answer provided to your earlier question by the Attorney-General on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 389W, explains the assessment made by the CPS and the confidentiality which attached to the Eurojust meeting.

WALES

Comprehensive Spending Review

14. **Mark Tami:** To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for the Home Department on the likely effects on policing in Wales of implementation of the outcomes of the comprehensive spending review. [20337]

Mr David Jones: Both my right hon. Friend and I have had regular discussions with Cabinet and ministerial colleagues on matters affecting policing and law and order in Wales and regularly meet with the Welsh Chief Constables, ACPO Cymru and the Welsh police authorities.

Broadband

Ian Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with Ministerial colleagues on a superfast broadband pilot project in Wales. [20026]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular meetings with ministerial colleagues on issues affecting Wales, including broadband. I met with my hon. Friend, the Minister responsible for culture, communications and creative industries on 26 October to discuss this matter further. I am also a member of the cross-Government Ministerial Group on Broadband which will ensure that we take a joined-up approach to the delivery of the coalition Government's broadband policy and projects.

In relation to the superfast broadband pilot projects, as my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Hunt) said in his recent answer to you on 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 8, we hope that it will be possible to extend some of the benefits of the Herefordshire pilot into Wales. There will also be further announcements before the end of the year on how the Government plan to roll out broadband to the whole country.

In the meantime, my officials and I continue to work in order to bring the full benefits of superfast broadband to Wales.

Coal: Industry

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of the coal industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [20922]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales.

We are committed to a future for clean coal in Wales and support the plans for an open cast operation at Tower Colliery near Hirwaun.

We are also committed to continuing to work with Tata and the Welsh Assembly Government to take forward a new deep mine on the Port Talbot Steelworks site that would make the plant almost self sufficient in terms of coking coal.

Iron and Steel: Industry

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on the future of the steel industry in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [20920]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend the Secretary of State and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales including the steel industry.

The steel industry makes a very important contribution to the Welsh economy and remains a key employer.

We welcome Tata's investment of £185 million at the Port Talbot steelworks and we continue to work with Tata and the Welsh Assembly Government to take forward the company's plans for a deep mine on the Port Talbot site which could create hundreds more much needed jobs.

Renewable Energy

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with the Welsh Assembly Government on renewable energy sources in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [20923]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have regular discussions with Welsh Assembly Government Ministers on a range of issues affecting Wales including renewable energy sources.

Wales has an abundance of natural sources of renewable energy and we are committed to working with the Welsh Assembly Government to ensure that these are used to their full potential.

S4C

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what meetings she had with the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport to discuss the future of S4C before 20 October 2010. [19829]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend had several meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Hunt) prior to 20 October regarding S4C and I have similarly had a number of meetings with my hon. Friend the Minister responsible for culture, communications and creative industries to discuss this matter. We are committed to a sustainable future of Welsh language broadcasting and will continue to have regular meetings in the future.

S4C's settlement is fair and broadly proportionate to the cuts that the Department for Culture, Media and Sport is being asked to make; it is not as challenging as some other public bodies are having to face.

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what recent discussions she has had with *(a)* S4C, *(b)* the Welsh Assembly Government, *(c)* BBC Wales and *(d)* civil society organisations on the future of Welsh language broadcasting; and if she will make a statement. [20060]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend and I have had numerous meetings relating to the financial future of S4C with various stakeholders. These include several meetings with my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport (Mr Hunt) and a number of meetings with my hon. Friend the Minister responsible for culture, communications and creative industries. We have also had regular conversations with S4C regarding this matter; and my right hon. Friend has discussed the issue with the First Minister and Deputy First Minister of the Welsh Assembly Government during their bilateral meetings. We will continue to have such meetings regularly in the future.

Following the CSR announcement, I can confirm that my right hon. Friend has had conversations with S4C and both the director of BBC Wales and the outgoing BBC trustee for Wales. I will shortly be meeting with Cymdeithas yr Iaith Gymraeg more formally to discuss this issue after having a brief discussion with them in July.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Building Regulations

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to increase the extent to which the provisions of Part M of the building regulations are complied with by those extending existing properties; and if he will make a statement. [20823]

Andrew Stunell: Part M does not apply to an extension of, or a material alteration of, a dwelling. However, an extension of a dwelling, or a material alteration of a dwelling, must not make the building less satisfactory in relation to Part M than it was before.

In considering the case for any change to the requirements of Part M we would need to review the practicalities, costs and benefits in detail. While I want to ensure that building regulations are proportionate and remain fit-for-purpose the Government are also committed to reducing regulation, including a one-in-one-out approach to managing costs.

I initiated a review over the summer to consider options for changes to the building regulations including Part M (Access to and use of buildings); to identify what may be needed in ensuring they continue to operate effectively and to deliver ever better levels of compliance in the future.

The review of building regulations typically operates on a three-year cycle to help the construction industry prepare for change and make it easier for designers, builders and owners to comply.

Having sought views from a wide range of interested parties, and taking account of the responses to the Your Freedom and my Department's Cutting Red Tape websites, my officials are now analysing the responses and I am aiming to make a statement on this around the end of the year with a plan to fully consult in late 2011 on a set of detailed proposals for change in 2013.

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what plans he has for the role of the *(a)* upper tier and *(b)* second-tier authorities in (i) designing and (ii) administering council tax benefit under the proposed new arrangements. [21416]

Robert Neill: The Government are working to develop the new arrangements including the administrative implications.

Departmental Freedom of Information

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many requests for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000 his Department has received since his appointment; what proportion of those requests resulted in a further request for an internal departmental review; and if he will make a statement. [21322]

Robert Neill: In the period from 12 May 2010 to 29 October 2010 the Department for Communities and Local Government received 350 requests for information. In the same period the Department received 17 requests for internal reviews of its handling of requests, a proportion of just under 5%.

In the corresponding period for 2009, the figures were 292 requests and 16 requests for internal review, a proportion of 5.5%.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company

Bob Blackman: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to oral evidence taken by the Communities and Local Government Committee on 13 September 2010, HC 453-i, Q109, if he will place in the Library a copy of the invoice from EADS in respect of costs incurred in the course of its appearance before the Committee. [21415]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The Department for Communities and Local Government's (DCLG's) contract with EADS includes the provision of a fixed amount of consultancy support for use by DCLG, regional entities and the fire and rescue service (FRS). This support may be used by DCLG, at its discretion, either for core project activities or to support individual FRSs. EADS wrote to DCLG in June 2010 with a detailed list of activities assigned to the contractually agreed consultancy support resource. Within this, EADS had assigned 20 consultant days worth of effort, at an average daily rate of £600 in relation to preparation for and appearance at the Select Committee Inquiry hearing in February 2010. DCLG has not authorised any effort associated with this activity to be assigned consultancy support and does not agree that it falls within the scope of core project activities. It is wholly inappropriate to use taxpayers' money in this way and we have refused to pay it. A copy of this list has been placed in the Library of the House.

European Aeronautic Defence and Space Company: Secondment

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government pursuant to his oral evidence to the Communities and Local Government Committee on 13 September 2010, HC 453-i, Q109, what explanation he has received from EADS for its decision to locate seconded staff in temporary accommodation; what assessment he has made of the effect of that decision on the timetable for completing the contract; and if he will make a statement. [21336]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* My officials were told that the move was necessary to enable EADS to relocate their teams to help deliver the project more efficiently. We have seen no evidence that the project is being delivered more efficiently as a result. Indeed, the move, which also involved removing access to the areas where the EADS teams work, has reduced my officials' visibility of the solution and our ability to provide the fire and rescue service with the assurance they need. Inevitably this has had a negative impact on the relationship between the Department for Communities and Local Government and EADS. It is much to be regretted.

I have made it clear to EADS that, as the main contractor, they are required to deliver the system to time as well as cost and quality.

Government Office Network

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will commission an equality impact assessment before making an announcement on the future of the Government Office Network. [19113]

Greg Clark *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* Further to my answers to the hon. Members for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) and for Coventry South (Mr Cunningham) on 27 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 1038 and 8 September 2010, *Official Report*, column 531W respectively, equality issues have been considered and are being taken into account in the closure process. An equality impact assessment was commissioned and will take account of, inform and reflect the decisions on the closure of the Government office network as these are made. These include decisions on which functions will continue, and the arrangements for staff transfer, redeployment and release. Once the EqIA is complete a copy will be published through the normal channels and made available in both Libraries.

Government Office Network: Closures

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the savings which will accrue to the Exchequer consequent on the closure of the Government Office Network. [19111]

Greg Clark: *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* We anticipate that abolishing the GO Network will provide substantial savings to the Exchequer over the next four years. The precise figure will be determined following decisions that are taken on staff transfer and redeployment, following discussions with all interested parties. These are savings that will help to protect front line services.

Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many families with children applied as homeless to each English local authority in each year since 2005; and in respect of how many such families a duty was accepted. [21037]

Grant Shapps: Summary information about English local housing authorities' actions under the homelessness legislation (part 7 of the Housing Act 1996) is collected at local authority level, and published by the Department in the quarterly Statistical Release on Statutory Homelessness, available both in the Library of the House and via the DCLG website:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/homelessnessstatistics/publicationshomelessness/

Information is collected on the number of households accepted as owed a main homelessness duty whose primary reason for priority need was the presence of children or a pregnant woman. A table showing this information for each local authority area in England in each year since 2005 has been placed in the Library of the House.

Information is not collected on the makeup of households making applications for homelessness assistance that are not accepted.

Housing Revenue Accounts

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether present levels of uplifts on allowances will be retained under his proposed changes to the Housing Revenue Account. [21366]

Andrew Stunell: Under the present annual housing revenue account subsidy system allowances have been increased in line with the GDP deflator.

On 5 October my right hon. Friend, the Minister for Housing and Local Government (Grant Shapps) stated that this present system was no longer fit for purpose and announced his intention to replace it with a system of self-financing through the Localism Bill. The spending review reaffirmed this commitment and stated that a key role for DCLG will be

> "reforming the council housing finance system so local authorities have greater control over their own finances, and can reinvest to meet local housing need".

We will publish further details on the self-financing settlement shortly.

Rented Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the density of dwellings per hectare was in respect of *(a)* private and *(b)* social rented sector housing built in Peterborough city council area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [21166]

Andrew Stunell: Land Use Change Statistics provides information on the density of new residential development but there is no breakdown available of density by tenure.

For information on the density of all new housing in Peterborough I refer my hon. Friend to the answer I gave him on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 660-61W.

Shops: Disability

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will take steps to ensure owners of large chain stores are compliant with their obligations under the Building Regulations with respect to accessibility for people with disabilities. [21186]

Andrew Stunell: Part M (Access to and use of buildings) of the Building Regulations sets out requirements in relation to access and use, as well as provision of sanitary conveniences in buildings other than dwellings, including shops and retail outlets. The Building Regulations apply only where building work occurs, typically being the erection, extension or material alteration of a building, and are not retrospective. These requirements are supported by guidance in Approved Document M which sets out ways in which compliance can be demonstrated in the most common of circumstances.

With all building work, meeting the requirements of the Building Regulations is the responsibility of the person carrying out the building work and, if they are not the same person, the owner of the building. Failure to comply with the relevant rules will result in the owner being liable for any remedial action.

The responsibility for checking the Building Regulations have been met falls to Building Control Bodies—either from the local authority or the private sector as an approved inspector. The guidance contained in Approved Document M supports the building control service and others who use the system in their efforts to ensure compliance.

We are not currently aware of any evidence that indicates significant issues with compliance in this specific area. If evidence of problems with compliance with any part of the Building Regulations emerges, we will consider the case for action—by Government or others.

Social Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many lettings of *(a)* one, *(b)* two, *(c)* three and *(d)* four bedroom homes were built in the social rented sector in the latest year for which figures are available; and how many such homes were (i) tenant transfers and (ii) let to homeless households. [20997]

Andrew Stunell: Information on the number of households receiving social housing is collected through the Continuous Recording of Letting form (CORE). Historically CORE has collected information only from registered social landlords, though a number of local authorities are now also providing information through this process.

Information is collected on whether a property is a first let, i.e. new build, conversion, rehabilitation or acquired property. Separate figures for newly built properties are not available. This information is collected for general needs housing only.

The following table gives the number of general needs first lets in 2008-09 as reported by registered social landlords: by number of bedrooms, by new or existing tenants, and by homelessness status. These figures exclude first lets by local authorities.

		Of which		*Of which*		
Number of bedrooms	*First lets*[1]	*New tenant*	*Tenant transfer*	*Statutory homeless*	*Other homeless*	*Not homeless*
1	5,206	3,532	1,674	900	218	4,088
2	14,030	8,937	5,093	2,589	467	10,974
3	7,177	3,365	3,812	1,153	141	5,883
4+	1,824	662	1,162	290	35	1,499
Total	28,237	16,946	11,741	4,932	861	22,444

— = less than 10.

[1] The number of first lets within 2008-09 is not necessarily the same as the total completions of homes for social renting during the same period—because of the time lag between building completions and first occupation.qa*Source:* CORE letting returns (weighted).

Further information on social lettings is published in the live tables at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/rentslettings/livetables/

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) whether his proposals for increased rents for new social tenants will include existing social tenants who move within the social rented sector; [21417]

(2) whether the proposed new form of social tenure with rents set at 80 per cent. of market level will be available to local authorities who retained their housing stock. [21419]

Grant Shapps: Existing tenants of local authorities and housing associations will retain their current tenancy and rent arrangements. We will publish more detail on the new 'affordable rent' tenure shortly.

Social Rented Housing: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average weekly social rent per household was for properties managed by registered social landlords in Peterborough city council area in each year since 2001; and if he will make a statement. [21177]

Andrew Stunell: Information is available per unit rather than per household. The average weekly rent per unit is available for general needs self-contained units owned and/or managed by registered social landlords. The average weekly rent as at 31 March each year from 1997 to 2010, in each local authority, each region, and in England, is published on the Department for Communities and Local Government website in Table 704. The link for this table is as follows:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/documents/housing/xls/141632.xls

Social Rented Housing: Rents

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what the average rent paid by tenants in the social rented sector is for *(a)* one-bed, *(b)* two-bed, *(c)* three-bed and *(d)* four-bed properties in each local authority in England; and if he will make a statement. [20999]

Andrew Stunell: Local authority rents information is collected on the DCLG Housing Revenue Account system in the Second Subsidy Claim Form. Information relates to estimated average actual rents per week charged on flats and houses for 2010-11 excluding service charges. The average may change over the year due to, for instance, stock disposals. Local authorities are asked to include rents information for flats and houses—this may include general needs and/or supported needs housing, housing for older people/sheltered housing, and may include dwellings that are self-contained or otherwise.

Registered social landlord rents information is collected by the Tenant Services Authority on their annual Regulatory and Statistical Return survey. Data are collected as at 31 March 2010. Data are from registered social landlords that completed the long version of the Regulatory and Statistical Return and made a valid return, which in general includes those registered social landlords that own or manage 1,000 or more dwellings and/or bed spaces, including shared ownership dwellings. Data refer to general needs self-contained units only and service charges are excluded.

A table has been placed in the Library of the House.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) in which local authority areas the average social rent is more than *(a)* 90% *(b)* 80% and *(c)* 70% of the market rate; [21364]

(2) what datasets his Department uses in its *(a)* national, *(b)* regional and *(c)* local assessment of market rents. [21365]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more information about the new affordable rent tenure shortly, including our proposals on rents.

Supporting People Programme

Mr Laws: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what funding he plans to allocate to the Supporting People programme in each year between 2011 and 2015. [21607]

Andrew Stunell: The Supporting People programme national allocation (England) for the current financial year and each year of the spending review are:

Supporting People

	£ million
2010-11	1,636.00
2011-12	1,625.00
2012-13	1,620.00
2013-14	1,620.00
2014-15	1,590.21

Wind Power: Planning Permission

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) how many planning consents have been granted for wind farms not yet developed; [21262]

(2) what guidance his Department issues to planning authorities on taking into account prevailing wind speeds in determining planning applications for wind farms. [21263]

Robert Neill: According to the Renewable Energy Planning Database hosted by the Department of Energy and Climate Change there are 99 proposals for onshore wind farms in England which have been granted planning approval but have not yet become operational. The capacity of projects awaiting construction currently would represent an increase of nearly 80% in England's energy capacity from wind farms.

Planning Policy Statement 22 on Renewable Energy advises that local planning authorities should not make assumptions about the technical and commercial feasibility of renewable energy projects and should not reject planning applications simply because the level of output is small. The supplement to Planning Policy Statement 1 on Climate Change also advises that planning authorities should not question the energy justification for why a proposal for renewable energy development must be sited in a particular location.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Council Tax Benefits

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the likely variation in the effects on different areas of proposed reductions in funding for council tax benefit. [21418]

Steve Webb: The Government are working to develop the new arrangements including the detailed administrative implications for local authorities which have yet to be determined.

Disability Living Allowance

Mrs McGuire: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions pursuant to the answer of 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 646W, on social security benefits: Stirling, whether a household which includes a child in receipt of disability living allowance will be subject to the £26,000 cap. [20201]

Maria Miller: In recognition of disabled people's additional needs, all households with a disability living allowance claimant will be exempted from the benefits cap.

Disability Living Allowance: Care Homes

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people in residential care received the mobility component of the disability living allowance in each parliamentary constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available; [19510]

(2) how many people in residential care who are in receipt of the disability living allowance received the *(a)* higher and *(b)* lower rate of the mobility component in each parliamentary constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available; [19511]

(3) how many people in residential care who are in receipt of the mobility component of the disability living allowance were under the age of 18 in each parliamentary constituency in the most recent period for which figures are available. [19512]

Maria Miller: Reliable estimates of disability living allowance claimants in residential care homes are not available other than on a Great Britain wide basis. We estimate that approximately 60,000 people who claim DLA and live in residential care will be affected by this measure in Great Britain.

Dr Whiteford: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department has conducted an impact assessment of the potential effects of the removal of the mobility component of the disability living allowance for people in residential care. [19514]

Maria Miller: The measure to cease paying mobility component of disability living allowance to people in residential care homes will be introduced as part of the forthcoming Welfare Reform Bill. In line with the Department's commitment to transparency, an equality impact assessment for Welfare Reform Bill measures such as this will be published on DWP's website alongside the Bill in due course.

Housing Benefit: Peterborough

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much was paid in housing benefit to individuals in Peterborough City Council area in each year from 1996-97 to 2009-10; and if he will make a statement. [21178]

Steve Webb: The information is in the table.

	Total housing benefit for Peterborough (£ million)
1996-97	33.1
1997-98	31.7
1998-99	31.0
1999-2000	31.2
2000-01	31.6
2001-02	32.0
2002-03	33.3
2003-04	32.7
2004-05	32.3
2005-06	36.7
2006-07	40.0
2007-08	46.4
2008-09	49.1
2009-10	59.5

Notes:
1. Figures are in cash terms and presented to the nearest £0.1 million/£100,000.
2. Figures include all housing benefit, whether funded by central Government or by local authorities.
3. Figures are available on the DWP website at:
http://research.dwp.gov.uk/asd/asd4/h_tables_budget2010.xls

Source:
Local authority subsidy returns

Housing Benefit: Poverty

Shabana Mahmood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many households his Department expects income to fall below the 60 per cent. median poverty line as *(a)* a result of the (i) proposed cap on housing benefit, (ii) uprating of housing benefit with reference to the consumer price index, (iii) cap in total household benefits and *(b)* in total (A) nationally and (B) in Birmingham, Ladywood constituency in each of the next 10 years. [18600]

Yvonne Fovargue: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions in respect of how many households his Department expects income to fall below the 60 per cent. median poverty line as *(a)* a result of the (i) proposed cap on housing benefit, (ii) uprating of housing benefit with reference to the consumer price index and (iii) cap on total household benefits and *(b)* in total (A) nationally and (B) in Makerfield constituency in each of the next 10 years. [19028]

Steve Webb: All of this information is not available. The information we do have is detailed as follows.

Initial estimates suggest that the housing benefit policies announced in the June 2010 Budget will not have a statistically significant impact on child poverty.

The package of measures announced in the June Budget and being introduced for the local housing allowance in 2011-12, including the removal of the £15 excess planned by the previous Administration, will achieve savings of around £1 billion by 2015-16. The other changes to housing benefit announced in the June Budget are estimated to save a further £1.1 billion in 2015-16. Overall, this represents a reduction of 9% in the total 2015-16 expenditure on housing benefit.

The reduction in housing benefit expenditure will reduce the amount customers receive from the Government towards their rent. However, the purpose of reform is to influence rent levels and housing choices, as well as to begin to address the disincentives to work in the current system created by high rates of benefit. These factors are likely, at least in part, to mitigate the impact of these measures on poverty.

Also, the impact of the housing benefit measures should not be considered in isolation of the wider package of measures that have been announced, in particular the extra money distributed to families with children through the tax credit system.

On 23 July, the Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12', which includes detailed analysis of the impacts of the June Budget measures at the local authority level. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Initial estimates suggest that the proposed benefit cap will not have a statistically significant effect on child poverty; the policy will affect relatively few households who already have a substantial income from benefit compared to the poverty line.

Housing Benefit: Scotland

Miss Begg: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the number of households in *(a)* Aberdeen South constituency, *(b)* Aberdeen local authority and *(c)* Scotland which will be affected by the proposed increase in the age threshold for the shared room rate in housing benefit from 25 to 35 years. [19450]

Steve Webb: We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course. This will include information at the local authority level.

Housing Benefit: Supported Housing

Mr Andrew Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether the proposed increase in the age of eligibility for the single room rate of housing benefit applies to supported accommodation. [21420]

Steve Webb: The age threshold for those in the private rented sector has never applied to those tenants receiving support from a landlord which is a housing association, registered charity, voluntary organisation or a county council.

Jobcentres: Depression

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what steps he is taking to ensure that all jobcentre staff are trained to recognise the needs of people with depression. [20537]

Chris Grayling: The administration of Jobcentre Plus is the responsibility of the chief executive, Darra Singh. I have asked him to provide the hon. Member with the information requested.

Letter from Darra Singh:

The Secretary of State has asked me to reply to your question asking what steps he is taking to ensure that all Jobcentre staff are trained to recognise the needs of people with depression. This is something which falls within the responsibilities delegated to me as Chief Executive of Jobcentre Plus.

Jobcentre Plus policy is to develop its staff in the skills required to support a range of customers and to respect their individual needs, including those related to their health conditions. This approach ensures that they are equipped to deal with a diverse set of circumstances whilst treating customers as individuals. Jobcentre staff ensure that job goals relate to the person's abilities, and that relevant solutions are identified in order to overcome any barriers a customer might face in a particular job.

The learning programme for Jobcentre staff focuses on raising awareness of the customer's personal circumstances and the impact on their ability to move into a sustainable job. Staff are provided with guidance notes which include background information on a number of conditions, including depression, as well as guidance on the implications of health conditions on interviews and how to use questioning techniques in order to support customers. Jobcentre Plus also recognises that disabilities and health conditions can affect individuals in different ways, and will change over time.

Pensions

Mr Jim Cunningham: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions when he expects to publish the Green Paper on pensions; and if he will make a statement. [21179]

Steve Webb: We recognise that the existing pension system is complex and difficult for many to understand. We are looking to publish proposals for reform in due course.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of appeals proceedings against work capability assessment decisions relating to employment and support allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [18679]

Chris Grayling: Jobcentre Plus, an agency of the Department for Work and Pensions, is only responsible for an element of the appeal process against work capability assessment decisions relating to employment and support allowance (ESA). The majority of the process is handled by the Tribunal Service, part of the Ministry of Justice.

For 2009-10, the Tribunals Service cleared 70,195 employment and support allowance appeals at an estimated cost of £20.6 million.

Within Jobcentre Plus the annual direct staff administration cost of ESA appeals for 2009-10, the latest complete financial year, was approximately £7 million.

The Government have a statutory commitment to an external independent review of the WCA every year for the first five years. The first of these reviews is currently being conducted by Professor Malcolm Harrington supported by a scrutiny group. The review is looking at the WCA in operation and is distinct from the recent Department-led review which focused on technical accuracy of the assessment.

Additionally, Jobcentre Plus and the Tribunal Service are working together on a review of the appeals process with a view to streamlining, speeding up and improving the service provided to customers.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Finance

Mr Ivan Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether his Department plans to review the governance arrangements for the BBC. [19282]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 25 October 2010]:* Within the framework of the charter and agreement, the governance arrangements of the BBC are a matter for the BBC, with no provision for Government to intervene.

The Government have, however, expressed reservations about the current governance arrangements and has encouraged the Trust to explore the scope for change within this framework.

Broadband: Wales

Mr Llwyd: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport for what reasons the Llyn Peninsula was not included in the superfast broadband pilot areas announced on pages 65-66 of the Spending Review, Cm 7942. [21076]

Mr Vaizey: The location put forward by the Welsh Assembly Government for selection as a superfast broadband pilot was based on the extension of the existing FibreSpeed project. The assessment conclusion was that it provided less learning and testing opportunity for Broadband Delivery UK about different commercial approaches than the chosen locations.

Football: Females

Tracey Crouch: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how much funding his Department has allocated to grassroots football schemes for each year to 2013-14; and what proportion of such funds he plans to allocate for the development of girls' and women's football in each such year. [21087]

Hugh Robertson: Through Sport England the Department is providing the funding shown in the table to the Football Association's Whole Sport plan (WSP) to support the development of grassroots football up to 2012-13. This is part of a £25.6 million funding allocation over a four year period from 2009-10. The Department will also be providing funding to The Football Foundation, which helps to deliver new and improved community sports facilities in many towns and cities across the country.

£ million

	Total WSP funding	*Football foundation*
2010-11	8.3	12
2011-12	5.4	10
2012-13	5.5	10

Of the £25.6 million WSP four year funding allocation, £2.4 million will be exclusively for the development of girls and women's football. This amount was given to the Football Association as a total package to use over the four year period. A breakdown of the funding by year is not held by the Department or Sport England.

Funding for the FA beyond 2012-13 has not yet been decided.

S4C: Finance

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport if he will take to steps to ensure representation of the independent production sector in Wales in negotiations with the BBC Trust on S4C funding. [21151]

Mr Vaizey: Levels of funding for S4C were set out in the spending review and licence fee settlement. The views of the independent production sector in Wales will be taken into account as the partnership between S4C and the BBC Trust is developed.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what steps he plans to take to ensure S4C remains operationally independent of the BBC in *(a)* editorial policy and *(b)* remit. [21152]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to the future of S4C as an independent service, retaining its editorial independence. The details of the partnership between S4C and the BBC are currently being developed.

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what arrangements he plans to make for the operational independence of S4C. [21356]

Mr Vaizey: The Government are committed to the future of S4C as an independent service. The details of the partnership between S4C and the BBC are currently being developed.

UK Sport: Finance

Bob Stewart: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to provide for UK Sport's accountability to his Department for its funding for *(a)* UK Athletics, *(b)* other sports' national governing bodies and *(c)* other sports organisations; and what steps UK Sport takes to monitor the value for money obtained from such expenditure. [20907]

Hugh Robertson: The Department's governance of UK Sport is set out in its Framework Document and Funding Agreement. Under the Funding Agreement UK Sport is accountable for the funding provided to sport national governing bodies, including UK Athletics, and other sports bodies. UK Sport reports formally to the Department on a quarterly basis, and Ministers hold an annual review with the Chair, in addition to meetings between myself and the chief executive each month.

UK Sport has formal funding agreements with all bodies it funds which report annually against agreed key performance and key governance indicators. UK Sport also monitors the cash-flow spend against budgets for funded bodies on a quarterly basis, to ensure that they only receive funding as and when required and use it for the agreed purposes. All funded bodies are required to have their accounts fully externally audited each year.

In addition, the performance of National Governing Bodies for Olympic and Paralympic sports is publicly assessed three times a year through UK Sport's "Mission 2012" performance management system.

TREASURY

Assets: Financial Services

Mr Nicholas Brown: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what plans he has for the future of publicly-owned assets in the banking and financial services sector. [19903]

Mr Hoban: UK Financial Investments Ltd (UKFI) manages the Government's investments in Royal Bank of Scotland (RBS), Lloyds Banking Group (LBG), Northern Rock and Bradford and Bingley (B&B) on an arm's length and commercial basis within its overarching objective of creating and protecting value for the taxpayer as stakeholders. The Government have made it clear that they are not a permanent investor in UK banks and that their intention, over time, is to dispose of all the investments in an orderly way. Because any decisions need to be taken in the context of changing economic and market conditions, UKFI do not think that it is possible or desirable to state hard goals such as time that would drive the sale of the Government's shares.

The Treasury has restructured Northern Rock into two separate entities: Northern Rock plc (NR plc) and Northern Rock Asset Management (NRAM). At some point in future the Government will dispose of their stake in NR plc. Any disposal must secure the best possible return to taxpayers. This process is being led by UKFI and no timetable has been set for the disposal.

NRAM and B&B are two similar businesses comprising closed mortgage books in wind-down. NRAM and B&B are being integrated under a single Government owned holding company, UK Asset Resolution Limited (UKAR). UKAR was fully established on 1 October 2010. The Government believe that integration is the optimal solution to maximise value for money.

Air Passenger Duty

Conor Burns: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what differentials or exemptions are in place in respect of the operation of air passenger duty. [21328]

Justine Greening: Details of APD rates and exemptions are contained in Notice 550—Air passenger duty, which is available on the HMRC website:

www.hmrc.gov.uk

Banks: Pay

John Mann: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what discussions his Department has had with banking organisations on the application of a portion of their 2010-11 bonus pool towards socially acceptable projects. [21059]

Mr Hoban: HM Treasury has not discussed application of 2010-11 bonuses to social projects with the banking sector. The Government welcome all efforts whether by businesses and individuals to contribute to the wider community.

Child Benefit

Mr Umunna: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households will be affected by the implementation of the proposed changes to the administration of child benefit in *(a)* London, *(b)* the London Borough of Lambeth, *(c)* Streatham constituency and *(d)* the UK. [17713]

Mr Gauke: Information on household income for Child Benefit claimants is not available at parliamentary constituency level or local authority level.

The number of families in London that will be affected by the withdrawal of Child Benefit from higher-rate taxpayers from January 2013 is estimated to be around 250,000.

The number of families in the UK that will be affected by the withdrawal of Child Benefit from higher-rate taxpayers from January 2013 is estimated to be around 1.5 million.

Disabled Persons Tax Credit: Ealing

Mr Virendra Sharma: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many families in Ealing, Southall constituency are in receipt of disabled person's tax credit. [21306]

Justine Greening: The number of families with at least one disabled adult or child in the household in Ealing, Southall constituency and benefiting from one of the disability elements of tax credits, is 170.

This information is based on snapshot data on the number of families benefiting from child and working tax credits, by each parliamentary constituency. It is available in the HMRC snapshot publication 'Child and Working Tax Credits Statistics. Geographical Analyses. April 2010'. This can be found at:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/cwtc-geog-apr2010.pdf

Institute for Fiscal Studies

Robert Halfon: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how much his Department has spent on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies in the last 24 months. [20472]

Justine Greening: The Treasury spent £12,500 in 2008-09 and £16,836 in 2009-10 on services provided by the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Pregnant Women: Grants

Joan Ruddock: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many mothers resident in Lewisham, Deptford constituency received the health in pregnancy grant in each year since its inception; and what expenditure the Government has incurred on the provision of such grants to date. [21093]

Justine Greening: Geographical analysis of the number of people benefiting from the Health in Pregnancy grant has not previously been undertaken and therefore this information is available only at disproportionate cost.

Revenue and Customs: Correspondence

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what guidance HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) issues to its staff on the use of its e-mail system to contact members of the public; and whether HMRC debt managers are authorised to use the HMRC e-mail system to contact *(a)* hon. Members and *(b)* members of the public. [21502]

Mr Gauke: HMRC has in place a range of guidance to staff on the use of e-mail. Some guidance relates to the whole Department and some to specific groups of staff. The high level policy is set out in HMRC's Information Management Manual which is available at:

http://customs.hmrc.gov.uk/channelsPortalWebApp/
channelsPortalWebApp.portal?nfpb=true&_pageLabeN
pageLibrary_ShowContent&id=HMCE_PRODI_023469&
propertyType=document

This published guidance has however now been superseded. The Library material on the HMRC website will be updated shortly but in the meantime I have arranged for a copy of the current guidance to be placed in the Library of the House.

HMRC takes the security of personal and business information very seriously. E-mail over the open internet is inherently insecure and for this reason HMRC does not routinely conduct business with members of the public or hon. Members by e-mail.

In certain exceptional and limited circumstances, HMRC will consider doing so provided both the potential sender and recipient confirm that they clearly understand and accept the risks involved.

Individual HMRC debt managers may be authorised to use external e-mail depending on business need but are required to comply with the overall e-mail guidance and policy.

Welfare Tax Credits

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what proportion of people moving from out of work benefits into employment he expects to become recipients of the *(a)* basic, *(b)* 30 hour, *(c)* childcare and *(d)* 50 plus element of working tax credit. [20529]

Justine Greening: The information requested is not available.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Bangladesh: Climate Change

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development if he will publish the agreement of 31 May 2010 between the UK and other European donors and the Bangladeshi government to establish the Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund. [21064]

Mr Duncan: The wish of the Government of Bangladesh is that the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 31 May 2010 is not published. We respect their wishes. The Bangladesh Climate Change Resilience Fund will support implementation of Bangladesh's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan for 2009-18, by supporting vulnerable communities in adapting to greater climate uncertainty and changing agricultural conditions.

I will arrange for further details to be deposited in the Library of the House.

UN Women's Agency: Finance

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding the Government plans to contribute to the UN women's agency in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [20672]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government strongly support the establishment of the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women. This represents an important opportunity to raise the profile of gender in the UN system, close gaps in delivery at country level and make a real difference to the life of people on the ground.

The Department for International Development (DFID) is reviewing funding to all multilateral agencies as part of the ongoing Multilateral Aid Review. A decision on funding for UN Women will be made when the Review concludes early next year.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Nurseries

Mrs Laing: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, how many children have been enrolled at the House of Commons nursery to date; how many children attend; what assessment has been made of the performance of the nursery in enrolling children; if the House of Commons Commission will benchmark the nursery's performance in enrolment against industry averages for start-up nurseries; and if he will make a statement. [21440]

Sir Stuart Bell: The number enrolled is 17. Seven children are already attending, and the others enrolled will all be attending by mid-February 2011. When the nursery was being planned, advice from nursery providers was that it takes several years for a new nursery to reach the target level of capacity, and the number currently enrolled in the Commons nursery is higher than was expected by this stage. The Commission understands that benchmark figures are available and will seek to obtain and publish them. The nursery at the House of Commons was completed on time and within budget.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Departmental Official Gifts

Chris Heaton-Harris: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what *(a)* hospitality and *(b)* gifts officials of his Department have received from members of the British Wind Energy Association and Renewables UK in each year since its inception. [16698]

Gregory Barker: Since DECC was formed in October 2008, DECC representatives have received hospitality and gifts from British Wind Energy Association/RenewableUK, as part of their role speaking at conferences and seminars. The value of these is contained in the following table:

£

	British Wind Energy Association		RenewableUK	
	Hospitality	Gifts	Hospitality	Gifts
October 2008 to October 2009	120.00	35.00	1,161.20	68.00
October 2009 to October 2010	235.00	0.00	235.00	275.00

Departmental Pay

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what allowances and payments in addition to salary were available to officials in his Department and its non-departmental public bodies in each year since his Department's inception; and what the monetary value was of payments and allowances of each type in each such year. [18793]

Gregory Barker: The allowances and payments in addition to salary (excluding payments that are for the reimbursement of business related expenses) that have been available and paid to DECC staff since 1 April 2009 are detailed as follows.

The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008 bringing together staff from Department for Business, Enterprise and Regulatory Reform (BERR) and Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA). Information prior to 1 April 2009 cannot be provided without incurring disproportionate costs.

An element of the Department of Energy and Climate Change's overall pay award is allocated to non-consolidated variable pay related to performance. These payments are used to drive high performance and form part of the pay award for members of staff who demonstrate exceptional performance, for example by exceeding targets set or meeting challenging objectives.

Allowances and other payments are used to recognise specific skills or responsibilities or to reward additional duties or costs. Each allowance has a set eligibility criteria.

Where the total number of recipients is fewer than five, we have not provided information as they could be identified which would breach their confidentiality.

£

Allowance	2009-10	2010-11
Overtime/travelling time pay	446,710	175,672
Extra duty	3,909	3,139
Night duty	2,618	568
Night duty officers	[1]—	[1]—
Meal allowance	535	164
On call	29,215	15,474
Standby	[1]—	[1]—
Weekend duty press officer	[1]—	[1]—
Market related recruitment and retention	66,000	0
Temporary cover	316,530	85,149
Private secretaries allowance	20,737	[1]—
Overseas allowance	2,201	0
Honorariums	6,000	[1]—
Buy back of annual leave	20,182	[illegible]522
pay in lieu of notice	0	82,656
Allowances paid to specialists	2,053,706	540,557
Non consolidated performance awards	960,350	347,752

[1] Less than five recipients

DECC's non-departmental public bodies have delegated authority to determine their own pay systems and allowances. The data in respect of the NDPBs are set out as follows.

Nuclear Decommissioning Authority

£ million

Allowance/payment	October 2008-March 2009	April 2009-April 2010
Car allowance	0.58	1.21
Relocation allowance	0.05	0.08
Non consolidated performance awards	2.95	6.50

Civil Nuclear Policy Authority

£

Allowance/payment	2008-09	2009-10
Responsibility allowances (temporary promotion, substitution, temporary duties, responsibility allowance)	94,247	39,317
Security dog handling	94,874	96,417
Housing allowance	788,678	733,320
South-east allowance	164,534	207,331
International allowance	83,109	110,536
Overtime	3,902,953	4,705,274
Home to duty allowance	441,997	496,617
Market premia	[1]90,519	[1]77,014
Personal pay differential	[1]—	[1]—
Home boarding	[1]—	[1]—
Transitional rent allowance	[1]—	[1]—
London weighting	[1]—	[1]—
Night duty	[1]—	[1]—
On call	[1]—	[1]—
Shift	[1]—	[1]—
Canteen subsidy	[1]—	[1]—
Relocation allowances	[1]—	[1]—

Civil Nuclear Policy Authority

Allowance/payment	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
Excess fares	[1] —	[1] —
Non consolidated performance awards	722,851	510,945

[1] Indicates brace. It is not possible to break down the costs of these individual allowances without incurring disproportionate costs.

Committee on Climate Change[1]

Allowance/payment	*2008-09*	£ *2009-10*
Non consolidated performance award payments	37,821	46,263

[1] Created 26 November 2008.

The Coal Authority

Allowances	*2009*	£ *2010*
Car allowance	44,277	47,331
Non consolidated performance awards	377,700	287,250

Departmental Redundancy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how many staff of his Department have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22035]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change (DECC) was created in October 2008.

No DECC staff were offered enhanced early retirement packages from October 2008 to March 2009.

Less than five DECC staff were offered enhanced early retirement packages in the financial year 2009-10.

No DECC staff have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in the financial year 2010-11.

Public Expenditure

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what his Department's capital expenditure per head was in *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five years. [21452]

Gregory Barker: The Department of Energy and Climate Change capital expenditure per head in the regions of London and north-west are given in the following table:

Department of Energy and Climate Change capital expenditure per head by regions

Region	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	£ per head *2009-10*
London	4.4	6.4	6.0	8.4	9.7
North-west	43.8	116.9	106.2	128.2	118.6

David Mowat: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change how much and what proportion of his Department's capital expenditure was allocated to *(a)* London and *(b)* the North West in each of the last five financial years. [21462]

Gregory Barker: The capital expenditure and its proportion allocated by the Department to the regions of London and north-west are given in the following table:

Department of Energy and Climate Change capital expenditure by regions

Region	*Capital expenditure expressed as:*	*2005-06*	*2006-07*	*2007-08*	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	Monetary value (£ million)	33	48	46	64	75
	Percentage of total capital expenditure	2	3	3	3	4
North-west	Monetary value (£ million)	299	801	729	882	822
	Percentage of total capital expenditure	20	47	43	46	44

Renewable Energy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average cost to *(a)* small, *(b)* medium and *(c)* large manufacturing enterprises of obtaining 15 per cent. of their energy consumption from renewable sources. [21267]

Gregory Barker: The Secretary of State has published estimates of the average electricity bill impacts for medium-sized[1] non-domestic energy users of energy and climate change policies, including those policies necessary for reaching the 15% renewable energy target.

The introduction of feed-in tariffs for small-scale electricity is estimated to increase average bills for this group by £24,000 in 2020 and extending the RO to meet the target is estimated to increase bills by £150,000 in 2020, a combined impact of 17% (source DECC (2010) "Estimated Impacts of Energy and Climate Change Police on Energy Prices and Bills", available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/what%20we%20do/uk%20energy%20supply/236-impacts-energy-climate-change-policies.pdf

These estimates do not take account of the potential offsetting impact from wholesale prices pushing down wholesale electricity prices, which previous modelling by Redpoint for DECC suggested could be of the order of £6/MWh on average over the period 2010-20. They also do not take account of other energy and climate change policy changes announced in the spending review 2010.

No separate assessment has been made of the bill impacts in the manufacturing sector, or of relating to small or large enterprises.

The spending review 2010 announced that the Renewable Heat Incentive would be funded through general taxation, so it will not impact on consumer gas bills.

[1] Size is defined here in terms of level of energy use.

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what estimate he has made of the average annual sum charged by suppliers to domestic energy consumers which is attributable to the operation of renewable obligation certificates. [22002]

Charles Hendry: Ofgem, who administer the renewables obligation (RO), have estimated that for 2009-10 the cost of complying with the RO added around £12 to the annual household electricity bill.

JUSTICE

Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003: Prosecutions

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many prosecutions have been brought under the provisions of the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 in each year since its entry into force; and if he will make a statement. [21378]

Mr Blunt: There have been no prosecutions under the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 reported to the Ministry of Justice for England and Wales, from its introduction in March 2004, up to the end of 2009 (latest available).

The Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 is intended to help to prevent this unacceptable practice from happening in the first place. Research suggests a number of barriers to prosecution, including pressure from the family or wider community, lead to cases going unreported. Despite the lack of prosecutions to date, the Female Genital Mutilation Act 2003 provides a clear message that female genital mutilation is an unacceptable practice and illegal in England and Wales.

A range of guidance has been issued to heighten awareness among all relevant professionals. The Home Office issued guidance to all chief officers of police in England and Wales on the investigation of cases of female genital mutilation when the Act came into force in 2004. The Association of Chief Police Officers incorporated female genital mutilation in guidance for police forces which was revised and reissued in 2008. The Crown Prosecution Service included female genital mutilation in its Policy for Prosecuting Cases of Domestic Violence, which was disseminated to all prosecutors by the end of 2008. This was accompanied by a modular training package which has been rolled out to all CPS areas.

The Government appointed a cross government female genital mutilation coordinator in September 2009 and a number of initiatives have been implemented to improve the Government response to tackling female genital mutilation. Most recently, the Home Office, in partnership with the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Department of Health and Department for Education, have developed draft Multi-Agency Practice Guidelines to assist practitioners handling cases of female genital mutilation. These guidelines are open for consultation at:

www.fco.gov.uk/fgm

Following consideration of responses, we hope to publish these guidelines in spring 2011.

Court proceedings data for 2010 are planned for publication in 2011.

Mercy Killing

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will hold a public inquiry on the merits of establishing an offence of mercy killing. [21067]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Government have no plans to hold such an inquiry.

Remand In Custody: Young People

Mrs Moon: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 13 September 2010, *Official Report*, columns 862-3W, on remand in custody: young people, how many and what proportion of juveniles remanded in custody were subsequently *(a)* acquitted and *(b)* given a non-custodial sentence in (i) magistrates and (ii) Crown courts in 2009. [20985]

Mr Blunt: The estimated number and proportion of juveniles remanded in custody at magistrates courts and the Crown court in England and Wales in 2009 (latest currently available), who were subsequently acquitted or given a non-custodial sentence, is shown in the following table.

The estimated number and proportion of juveniles[1] remanded in custody[2] who were subsequently acquitted, received a non-custodial sentence[3] or a custodial sentence at magistrates courts and the Crown court, England and Wales 2009[4]

	2009[5]	
	Juveniles	*Percentage of juveniles[4]*
Magistrates courts:		
Acquitted	339	15
Non-custodial	977	44
Immediate custody	888	40
Crown court:		
Acquitted	237	17
Non-custodial	239	17
Immediate custody	918	66

[1] Defined as being aged 10-17 at the date of appearance in court.

[2] Includes those remanded in custody at any stage of proceedings at magistrates and Crown courts who may also have been given bail at some stage of those proceedings.

[3] Magistrates courts figures exclude those committed for trial or sentence at the Crown court and those who failed to appear. Non-custodial sentences include discharges, fines, community sentences, and a number of other sentences that do not involve incarceration. Acquitted includes proceedings discontinued, discharged, withdrawn and dismissed.

[4] Percentages here represent the proportions of all juveniles who were remanded in custody, excluding those where the outcome resulted in committal for trial or sentence by magistrates courts to the Crown court.

[5] Data are estimates.

Notes:

1. Every effort is made to ensure that the figures presented are accurate and complete. However, it is important to note that these data have been extracted from large administrative data systems generated by the courts and police forces. As a consequence, care should be taken to ensure data collection processes and their inevitable limitations are taken into account when those data are used.

It is known that in some police force areas, information on remand decisions is not always readily available to those coding court proceedings returns. In certain cases, the return may be mistakenly coded as if no remand had taken place. For magistrates court proceedings, the number of remands and more importantly, the number which are in custody, are believed to be under-recorded in total. As the breakdown of remands into bail and custody cases for a number of forces is not accurate for a number of forces, estimates have to be made to provide national figures.

2. Some percentages may not sum to 100 due to rounding.

Source:

Prepared by Justice Statistics Analytical Services.

Squatting

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what plans he has to bring forward legislative proposals to amend legislation on squatting; and if he will make a statement. [20911]

Mr Blunt: We are considering whether the law in relation to squatting and the way it is enforced, should be strengthened, but we have not yet reached any firm conclusions.

Squatting: Evictions

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice if he will bring forward legislative proposals to extend the rights of property owners and local authorities to evict squatters from private property. [21247]

Mr Blunt: We are reviewing with other Government Departments whether the law in relation to squatting and the way it is enforced, should be strengthened, but we have yet to reach a conclusion.

EDUCATION

Academies: Finance

Ed Balls: To ask the Secretary of State for Education with reference to his announcement of 1 September 2010, whether he plans to publish the academy school funding agreements he has signed with schools which are converting from outstanding maintained school status. [15417]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 September 2010]:* All funding agreements are being published on the Department for Education's website:

www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/fundingagreements

Libraries: Finance

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has for the future of library services following the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [20618]

Mr Vaizey: I have been asked to reply.

Local authorities in England fund and deliver library services. Policy responsibility rests with the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. To help councils adapt to the current economic challenge and in anticipation of a tight spending review settlement for local government (distributed by the Department for Communities and Local Government), in the summer we announced a Future Libraries Programme that will help maximise the impact of available library budgets.

The Museums Libraries and Archive Council (MLA) and the Local Government Association Group (LGA) are jointly leading the Future Libraries Programme. The programme is finding new ways to deliver library services without cutting the front line services that communities want and need. It provides the chance to try new and innovative methods like shared resources, different governance models and co-locating with other services. The latest information about this programme is available on the MLA website at

http://www.mla.gov.uk/what/programmes/the_future_libraries_programme

Schools: Bristol

Kerry McCarthy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what recent representations he has received on capital and revenue funding for St Ursula's School in Bristol. [16972]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 13 October 2010]:* We have received a number of representations about proposals for the future of the former St Ursula's Independent School. However, we have not received any representations on capital and revenue funding.

Schools: Finance

Jim Shannon: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) how much funding his Department has allocated to faith free schools; [17464]

(2) how much funding his Department has allocated to *(a)* Anglican, *(b)* Roman Catholic, *(c)* Presbyterian and *(d)* Methodist faith free schools. [17465]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 14 October 2010]:* The Department has not yet allocated any funding available under the Free Schools programme to faith schools but I can confirm that my Department's remit only covers England.

Schools: Travel Advisers

Mr Iain Wright: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what funding he plans to allocate to school travel advisers in *(a)* 2010-11 and *(b)* 2011-12. [15469]

Mr Gibb: School travel advisers in local authorities are jointly funded by the Departments for Education and Transport. The Department for Education's allocation in 2010-11 is £3,357,000. This funding is delivered to local authorities through the Area Based Grant mechanism, which was subject to a reduction of 23.96% following a departmental wide £670 million savings exercise earlier in this financial year. The Department's funding commitments for 2011-12 will be subject to the outcome of the comprehensive spending review.

Specialist Schools: Finance

Nick de Bois: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what sum his Department pays in capital grant to specialist schools following initial designation. [17325]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 18 October 2010]:* Following this year's initial designation round, the Department paid £20,000 to each of the newly designated specialist schools, representing a total of £2.32 million for the 2010-11 financial year. This excludes the 23 middle schools which joined the programme in partnership with an established upper school and which were not eligible to receive the capital grant.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Apprentices: Kingston upon Hull

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of the new apprenticeships announced in the comprehensive spending review 2010 will be located in Hull. [21825]

Mr Hayes: The comprehensive spending review confirmed that we will increase annual funding for adult apprenticeships by up to £250 million a year before the end of the spending review period. This is above the £398 million annual funding for adult apprenticeships inherited from the last Government. By 2014-15, this Government will have in place sufficient funding for 75,000 more adult apprenticeship places than the previous Government were providing.

Apprenticeships are funded on a national basis through the Skills Funding Agency (SFA). There are no regional or local allocations. We do expect the SFA, working through the National Apprenticeships Service, to support employers, colleges and training organisations in Hull and across the country to make these additional apprenticeship places available where there is local demand.

We will publish our plans for apprenticeships in our Skills Strategy and Skills Investment Strategy later this month.

Defence Equipment: Exhibitions

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what support his Department plans to give to companies attending the LIBDEX 2010 event in Tripoli in November 2010; and what estimate he has made of the likely cost to the public purse of such support; [21476]

(2) at which overseas exhibitions the UK Trade and Investment Defence and Security Organisation plans to offer support to exporting companies in the period to 31 March 2011. [21477]

Mr Prisk: UKTI DSO will send a small team to LIBDEX 2010 to support UK industry as has been done at previous exhibitions in Libya. Attendance by staff from UKTI is aimed at providing continued support to UK defence and security companies seeking to win business in Libya following the lifting of the EU arms embargo in 2004. UK Government and industrial participation at LIBDEX 2010 will continue this policy as well as contributing to our desire to further develop the UK's bilateral relationship with Libya. The net cost of this attendance is estimated to be £55,000.

UKTI DSO will also be providing support to UK companies in varying degrees at the following exhibitions:

Exhibition	*Country*	*Dates*
Libdex	Libya	8 to 11 November
Indo Defence	Indonesia	10 to 13 November
Land Warfare Conference	Australia	15 to 19 November
IFSEC INDIA 2010	India	23 to 25 November
Exponaval	Chile	30 November to 3 December
INTERSEC 2011	UAE	16 to 18 January
Aero India	India	9 to 13 February
IDEX/NAVDEX	Abu Dhabi	20 to 24 February
Avalon Air Show	Australia	1 to 6 March
GSA	Singapore	15 to 17 March

Financial Regulation

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) on what date his Department consulted *(a)* organisations representing the financial sector and *(b)* the Financial Reporting Council on the Government's proposal to transfer the UK Listing Authority away from the Financial Services Authority; [20893]

(2) what representations he received from organisations representing the financial sector on the Government's proposals to transfer the UK Listing Authority away from the Financial Services Authority; and when those representations were received. [20896]

Mr Davey: In the period from 5 May to 26 July BIS Ministers and officials met with a wide range of organisations including the London Stock Exchange Group and the Financial Reporting Council as part of the usual policy making process. I have also met both bodies since HM Treasury issued the consultation "A new approach to financial regulation: judgment, focus and stability" on 26 July. While I have had no other meetings specifically on the consultation, I and my officials would have encouraged all interested parties to respond to the consultation.

Financial Reporting Council

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills on what date his Department received representations from the Financial Reporting Council on the Government's proposals to transfer the UK Listing Authority away from the Financial Services Authority. [20895]

Mr Davey: In the light of my hon. Friend the Financial Secretary's Statement to Parliament on 17 June 2010, *Official Report,* columns 1056-58 and in preparation for a meeting between them on 30 June, the chair of the Financial Reporting Council wrote to my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State on 28 June on a wide range of issues, including potential synergies between the UK Listing Authority and the Financial Reporting Council. BIS Ministers were informed on 15 July of the FRC Board discussion that day. I also discussed the issues with the FRC when I saw them on 8 September.

Foreign Students

Mr Thomas: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many 18 to 30 year olds with UK nationality were estimated to be studying in universities in each country outside the United Kingdom in each of the last 20 years. [19766]

Mr Willetts: The UK, in common with other countries, does not collect data on outward-bound students but does collect them on inward-bound students. Hence, there is reliance on the figures reported by other countries to the main international agencies (OECD, Eurostat and UNESCO) for information about UK students studying abroad.

The international agency databases go back as far as 1998, therefore earlier figures are not available. As countries compile data on foreign and/or international students in different ways, figures are not strictly comparable. The figures in the table cover all ages, as information by age group is not available.

Estimated number of UK students in higher education studying abroad

Country	*1998*	*1999*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Australia	5,339	[1]—	4,430	4,529	5,968	5,795	1,652	1,662	1,545	1,687	1,696
Austria	206	188	214	214	173	175	186	180	194	200	243
Belgium	[1]—	239	210	231	235	234	270	238	210	251	241
Canada	1,065	1,058	1,189	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2,498	[1]—	2,847	2,181	2,518
Chile	[1]—	[1]—	6	28	38	56	[1]—	5	0	7	12
Czech Rep.	177	207	228	241	231	237	265	334	363	405	410
Denmark	369	403	374	388	401	425	450	466	471	479	472
Finland	114	111	143	147	141	160	172	191	189	189	200
France	3,411	3,192	3,147	2,721	2,545	2,998	2,611	2,299	2,570	2,595	2,519
Germany	2,820	2,679	2,599	2,397	2,242	2,172	2,154	1,962	1,871	1,854	1,723
Greece	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	0	4	7	14	19	85	106	102
Hungary	15	33	[1]—	46	39	23	28	33	53	76	104
Iceland	4	2	17	16	11	18	8	13	23	23	38
Ireland	1,735	1,689	1,809	1,939	1,960	2,132	2,165	[1]—	1,196	2,282	1,421
Italy	204	150	91	145	112	173	247	249	280	298	247
Japan	259	295	319	350	349	361	403	393	350	400	421
Korea, Rep. of	4	12	6	6	9	8	11	15	17	22	21
Luxembourg	3	3	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	4	0	7
Mexico	[1]—	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Netherlands	[1]—	670	661	648	628	603	590	731	772	802	827
New Zealand	62	87	116	149	196	161	378	406	419	430	401
Norway	375	376	373	371	354	343	337	331	345	343	306
Poland	19	22	24	21	28	26	22	41	45	77	105
Portugal	[1]—	[1]—	94	0	0	91	90	107	86	90	99
Russian Fed.	[1]—	[1]—	0	0	0	0	[1]—	0	0	0	20
Slovak Rep.	[1]—	0	2	3	5	4	5	6	12	26	41
Slovenia	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	[1]—	2	0	1	1
Spain	2,347	2,231	2,660	2,363	2,257	2,253	593	538	618	662	721
Sweden	433	822	828	791	808	839	822	839	761	789	525
Switzerland	298	312	299	295	298	326	356	379	387	364	402
Turkey	151	154	149	128	117	114	162	106	117	102	104
United States	6,744	7,148	7,376	7,059	8,414	8,414	8,326	8,602	8,568	8,625	8,376
Total Reported	26,154	22,083	27,364	25,226	27,563	28,148	24,815	20,147	24,398	25,366	24,323
Adjusted estimate[2]	23,024	23,753	23,809	23,116	24,203	24,798	24,815	24,597	24,398	25,366	24,323

[1] Indicates that no data were supplied.

[2] Figures adjusted for missing data and for methodological changes in reporting by individual countries.

Source:
OECD on-line database

Higher Education: Cheshire

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many people resident in Warrington North constituency entered higher education in the last 10 years for which figures are available, broken down by *(a)* age, *(b)* income decile of the student or their parents and *(c)* council ward. [21176]

Mr Willetts: Information relating to the income decile of the student or their parents and council ward is not available. The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) broken down by age is provided as follows. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011. Comparable figures for HE level courses in Further Education Colleges are not available.

Undergraduate entrants from Warrington North parliamentary constituency[1] by age group—UK Higher Education Institutions[2]

	Academic years 1999/2000 to 2008/09			
	Under 20	*21 to 24*	*25 and over*	*Total*
1999/2000	330	45	175	550
2000/01	350	40	180	570
2001/02	355	40	175	570
2002/03	375	70	195	640
2003/04	420	70	295	785
2004/05	400	70	225	690
2005/06	430	75	260	765
2006/07	475	70	245	790
2007/08	415	75	205	695

Undergraduate entrants from Warrington North parliamentary constituency[1] by age group—UK Higher Education Institutions[2]

	Academic years 1999/2000 to 2008/09			
	Under 20	*21 to 24*	*25 and over*	*Total*
2008/09	465	90	225	780

[1] Excludes entrants whose parliamentary consistency could not be established due to missing or invalid postcode information.

[2] Excludes the Open University due to inconsistencies in their coding of entrants across the time series.

Note:

Figures are based on a 1 December snapshot and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Paternity Leave

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 13 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 335W, on paternity leave, what the future timetable is for his Department's consultation on long-term options for shared paternity leave. [19787]

Mr Davey: The Government are committed to encouraging shared parenting and making the workplace more family friendly. We will launch a consultation in due course on the design of a new system of flexible shared parental leave.

Royal Mail: Reorganisation

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether his Department has discussed with the Communications Workers Union or other employee representatives *(a)* conversion of Royal Mail to a mutual society or co-operative and *(b)* an employee-led buy-out of the business. [21362]

Mr Davey: I have met with both the CWU and Unite to discuss Royal Mail matters. Government have been clear that their policy for ownership of Royal Mail is to enable a sale of shares in the company in order to secure the future of both Royal Mail and the universal postal service, and as part of this to make available 10% of the equity for employees as part of the privatisation process. This was set out in the policy statement that we published alongside introduction of the Postal Services Bill on 13 October "Delivering for the future—a universal mail service and community post offices in the digital age". It can be viewed in the House Libraries or online at:

http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/business-sectors/docs/d/10-1206-delivering-universal-mail-service-community-post-offices.pdf

Neither the CWU nor Unite have raised with Government the possibility of either a mutualisation or employee buy out for Royal Mail. However, a mutualisation or employee-led buy out of Royal Mail is unlikely to give it the access to the commercial confidence and disciplines of private investors that it needs to allow the company to modernise faster and keep pace with the changes in the market.

Technology Strategy Board: Finance

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much of its budget for 2008 to 2011 the Technology Strategy Board allocated to *(a)* new and *(b)* ongoing long-term projects. [20874]

Mr Willetts: The Technology Strategy Board will spend around £328 million on new projects and £302 million on ongoing legacy projects in the period 2008-11. These costs are largely in the area of collaborative R&D projects which are typically of three years duration.

The Technology Strategy Board also funds Knowledge Transfer Partnerships, which are of one to three years duration, and Knowledge Transfer Networks at a cost of £87 million and £55 million respectively for the period 2008-11.

Tobacco Industry

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what research his Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the effects on independent retailers of the implementation of provisions of the Health Act 2009 in respect of the prohibition of tobacco displays since his Department's initial consultation and impact assessment; and if he will make a statement. [20617]

Mr Prisk: BIS has worked closely with all the leading retail trade associations (the Association of Convenience Stores, the National Federation of Retail Newsagents and the British Retail Consortium) to ensure that the effects on retail businesses of the implementation of the tobacco display provisions in the Health Act 2009 are well understood. These retail trade organisations have provided information and evidence in respect of the estimated one-off costs of compliance and the annual costs as well as the wider impact of tobacco retail practices. This information has been routinely shared with the Department of Health which of course leads in this policy area.

UK Listing Authority

John Mann: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions he had with the Chancellor of the Exchequer on proposals to transfer the UK Listing Authority away from the Financial Services Authority; and on what dates those discussions took place. [20894]

Mr Davey: My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (Vince Cable) and the Chancellor of the Exchequer (Mr Osborne) have such frequent discussions on a wide range of issues that it would not be practical to provide details.

Working Conditions: Public Sector

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future of rules on *(a)* transfer of undertakings and *(b)* two-tier working in respect of employees leaving public sector employment. [20031]

Mr Davey: The Government currently have no plans to revise the transfer of undertakings regulations (protection of employment) regulations (TUPE). However my right hon. Friend the Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General (Mr Maude) who has responsibility for to the Code of Practice on Workforce Matters in Public Sector Service Contracts, often referred to as the Two Tier Code has sought the views of interested parties including trade unions and employers groups with a view to abolishing the code. A decision will be made by the Government in due course.

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Colombia

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received of investigations into the conduct of the Vice-President of Colombia during his tenure as governor of Valle del Cauca. [21495]

Mr Jeremy Browne: On 13 October 2010 the Colombian Public Ministry asked the Attorney-General's Office to re-open an investigation into the conduct of Vice-President Angelino Garzón during his time as governor of Valle del Cauca. A previous investigation was opened and then closed in 2005 because the denouncing prosecutor, according to Colombian law, did not have the competence required to carry out an investigation against a governor. The Attorney-General's Office has yet to respond to the request.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the killing of Edgar Bohorquez in Colombia; and whether his Department has made representations to the Colombian government on this matter. [21496]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Our embassy in Bogota has received reports that Mr Bohorquez was murdered on 24 September 2010 while driving a motorcycle with his son, who was also shot and remains in a critical condition. On 29 September Colombia's human rights ombudsman called on the authorities to conduct a full investigation. On 2 November 2010 the embassy wrote to the Presidential Programme for Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law to raise Mr Bohorquez's case. We will continue to monitor the investigation and raise the matter with the Colombian authorities again should it prove necessary.

Mr Anderson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what advice he has received on representations to the Colombian authorities in the case of the imprisonment of Liliany Obando. [21497]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We have made several representations to the Colombian Government in the case of Liliany Obando. Staff at our embassy in Bogota wrote to Carlos Franco, Director of the Human Rights Presidential programme in Colombia on her behalf on 5 March. On 24 March the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Colombia informed officials at our embassy in Bogota that Mrs Obando continues to be imprisoned at El Buen Pastor. We have also been informed that the Public Ministry Office (Procuraduria) is involved in her case to guarantee the impartiality and independence of her legal process.

Our embassy in Bogota will continue to monitor the proceedings of this case and raise it again with the Colombian authorities should it prove necessary.

Departmental Manpower

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs how many officials his Department has appointed on fixed-term contracts since 7 May 2010. [16792]

Alistair Burt: Since 7 May 2010 the Foreign and Commonwealth Office has appointed six people on fixed-term contracts, in accordance with the rules set out by the Civil Service Commissioners.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Chris Bryant: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the written ministerial statement of 29 June 2010, *Official Report*, columns 37-8WS, on the Foreign and Commonwealth Office: programmes, what further reductions in expenditure his Department plans to make to achieve the in-year reductions he proposes. [16206]

Alistair Burt: The Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) is determined to deliver the best possible service to the UK taxpayer at the lowest possible cost, while contributing to the Government's goal of reducing the budget deficit. Where there is scope for further cuts, efficiencies and reforms to deliver better for Britain we will make them.

These efficiencies and reforms include:

reduced spend on consultancy and other support functions;

more collaborative procurement with other Departments who have a presence overseas, such as the Department for International Development; and

where circumstances permit, further asset sales in parts of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's overseas estates.

The money saved will help sustain the UK's front-line diplomatic work and our global network of posts, and contribute to the Foreign and Commonwealth Office's £55 million in-year cuts.

Hamas

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives his Department has set for its policy on Hamas. [21309]

Alistair Burt: The UK, along with its international allies, continue to call on all parties in the region including Hamas to refrain from any activity that could undermine the search for a just and lasting settlement.

We call on Hamas to take immediate and concrete steps towards the Quartet principles and to end its interference with the operations of non-governmental organisations and UN agencies in Gaza. We also call for the unconditional release of Gilad Shalit, who has been held in captivity for four years.

Iran: Politics and Government

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives his Department has set for its policy on Iran. [21311]

Alistair Burt: The central objective of our policy is to stop Iran obtaining a nuclear weapon. To this end, my Department is playing a leading diplomatic role in an internationally-agreed strategy of pressure in the form of sanctions, and engagement, to persuade Iran to resolve the concerns over its nuclear programme.

Iran: Sanctions

Michael Ellis: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of introducing unilateral economic sanctions against Iran. [20924]

Alistair Burt: We are fully committed to using engagement and targeted pressure to resolve the Iranian nuclear issue, and have supported UN and EU sanctions as part of this approach. Our clear preference is for multilateral sanctions which have the widest impact. We will consider additional national measures where we assess these will be effective.

Middle East: Armed Conflict

Mr Ward: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his counterparts in Israel and the Palestinian National Council on the situation of members of the Palestinian legislature; and if he will make a statement. [18851]

Alistair Burt: The UK continues to follow Israeli detention operations closely and monitor the situation of Palestinian prisoners. We continue to urge the Government of Israel to take immediate action to ensure all cases are reviewed by a court in accordance with fair procedures and that their rights, particularly the rights to a fair trial and family visit, should be upheld.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the number of *(a)* rockets and *(b)* mortar bombs launched into Israeli territory from (i) Lebanon and (ii) Gaza since 1 January 2010; and if he will make a statement. [21141]

Alistair Burt *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* According to the Israeli Defence Force there have been 122 rockets and 87 mortars fired from Gaza at the state of Israel and zero mortars and rockets from Lebanon.

Middle East: Peace Negotiations

Mr Offord: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what aims and objectives his Department has set for its policy on the Middle East peace process. [21310]

Alistair Burt: As my right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary (Mr Hague) has made clear, we will do all that we can to support progress towards a two state solution to the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This conflict matters to British national security and we will take every opportunity to help promote peace.

We want to see a sovereign, viable and contiguous Palestinian state living in peace and security alongside a safe and secure Israel and their other neighbours in the region, based on the borders of 1967, with Jerusalem the future capital of both states and a fair settlement for refugees.

Direct talks are a vital opportunity to make progress. We look to Israel to renew the settlement moratorium so that talks can continue.

Palestinians: International Assistance

Richard Graham: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the UN Relief and Works Agency on the *(a)* education of schoolchildren in and *(b)* importation of building materials into Gaza; and if he will make a statement. [20675]

Alistair Burt: Foreign and Commonwealth Office officials have regular contact in London and in the region, with the UN Relief and Works Agency regarding a number of issues related to Gaza, including reconstruction of schools and import of key materials. We welcome the steps that Israel announced in June to improve access to Gaza. But we want to see further progress to speed up reconstruction and secure real change on the ground.

Tariq Aziz

Kris Hopkins: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent representations he has made to the Iraqi Government on commuting the death sentence on Tariq Aziz; and if he will make a statement. [21123]

Alistair Burt: The UK is opposed to the death penalty in all circumstances as a matter of principle. Together with EU partners, we promote the abolition of capital punishment around the world.

We repeatedly make our opposition known to the Iraqi authorities at senior levels. The Charge d'Affaires at our embassy in Baghdad wrote to the Iraqi Prime Minister's office on 21 October 2010 outlining our opposition. Along with 22 other countries the UK raised concerns over the use of the death penalty in Iraq during Iraq's Universal Periodic Review (UPR) at the UN Human Rights Council in February 2010. On three occasions in 2009, we joined other EU member states in delivering demarches to the Iraqi Government against the death penalty.

However, trials are held in accordance with Iraqi law and we support Iraq's sovereign right to bring to justice those accused of crimes against the Iraqi people.

Yemen: Visits Abroad

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Ambassador of Yemen on plans for a Ministerial visit to Yemen. [21494]

Alistair Burt: The travel plans of Ministers are not for public disclosure for security reasons. I can, however, tell you that I visited Yemen in June and intend to follow up this very productive visit with a further trip. You will be aware of the terrorist attacks on British embassy vehicles on 26 April and 6 October and more recently heightened international concerns about the threat posed by al-Qaeda in the Arabian peninsula in

Yemen and to the west. This threat will be taken into consideration when planning any future visits. I have met His Excellency Abdulla Ali Al-Radhi, the newly appointed Yemeni ambassador to the Court of St James, and have restated my intention to further develop the UK-Yemen bilateral relationship.

DEFENCE

Peacekeeping Operations: Middle East

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the number of civilian deaths in Iraq consequent on actions by *(a)* coalition forces and *(b)* insurgents since March 2003. [20592]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence does not collate figures for civilian casualties in Iraq. The prevention of civilian casualties was of paramount concern to force commanders operating in Iraq and the risk of this occurring was minimised at all times by the tactics and training of our forces.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his policy is on offering incentives to *(a)* tribal leaders and *(b)* other individuals or organisations in Afghanistan to secure the safe passage of convoys. [19404]

Dr Fox: Ministry of Defence policy is not to offer incentives to any individual or organisation in Afghanistan in an attempt to secure the safe passage of its convoys.

Aircraft Carriers

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what methodology his Department used to estimate the relative cost to the public purse of *(a)* cancelling the order for the proposed second aircraft carrier and *(b)* building it; and if he will place in the Library a copy of his correspondence with BAE Systems on that matter. [19839]

Peter Luff: The National Security Council received advice on the aircraft carrier construction programme as part of the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) process. BAE Systems separately wrote to the Prime Minister setting out the company's assessment of costs. The Government's conclusions have been fully explained in the SDSR, which was published on 19 October.

Armed Forces: Investigations

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what investigation his Department conducted into an incident on 15 November 2006 in Helmand Province in Afghanistan in which a Royal Marines Commando patrol reportedly fired warning shots at a white Hilux vehicle, resulting in the death of two civilians and two civilians being wounded; when that investigation was conducted, which part of his Department conducted that investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of that investigation; [19901]

(2) what investigation his Department conducted into allegations relating to the conduct of Coldstream Guards in Afghanistan in October and November 2007; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted this investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20787]

(3) what investigation his Department conducted into an incident on 6 November 2007 in Kabul in which a son of an Afghan general was reportedly killed by a warning shot from an unidentified UK company; when this investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20788]

(4) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 25 October 2007 in Kabul, in which a vehicle reportedly failed to stop for an unidentified patrol and a warning shot was reportedly fired by a British soldier; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20789]

(5) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 21 October 2007 in Kabul, in which an unidentified British vehicle with a gunner on top reportedly wounded three civilian interpreters; when this investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20790]

(6) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 4 October 2007 in Kabul, in which British soldiers reportedly wounded a non-combatant with a warning shot; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20791]

(7) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 10 November 2009 in Helmand province in which a patrol of 1 Company Coldstream Guards reportedly killed a driver who failed to stop; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20792]

(8) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 14 October 2008 in Helmand province, in which Y Company 45 Commando Royal Marines reportedly hit a motorcyclist at a roadblock; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20797]

(9) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 12 March 2008 in Helmand province, in which ambushed troops reportedly called in gunships after a soldier was wounded; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20798]

(10) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 19 November 2008 in Helmand province in which soldiers from J Company, 42 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly fired warning shots at a vehicle approaching a convoy; when the investigation

was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20799]

(11) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 26 March 2009 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot and wounded a motorcyclist observing the patrol; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20800]

(12) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 3 January 2009 in Helmand province in which British mentors with the Afghan army allegedly fired a warning rifle shot at a suspicious person; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20801]

(13) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 19 January 2009 in Helmand province in which Y Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, called in a Reaper drone to launch a missile on alleged Taliban; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20802]

(14) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 27 January 2009 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot at two people watching the patrol; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20803]

(15) what investigation his Department has conducted into the incident on 4 December 2008 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot and wounded a man; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20804]

(16) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 24 December 2009 in Helmand province in which L Company, 42 Commando Royal Marines, reportedly shot at an approaching vehicle; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20805]

(17) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 30 December 2009 in Helmand province in which W Company, 45 Command Royal Marines, reportedly fired a warning shot at a white van; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation; [20806]

(18) what investigation his Department conducted into the incident on 29 November 2008 in Helmand province in which a police patrol mentored by UK troops reportedly shot at a vehicle driven by another Afghan policeman; when the investigation was conducted; which part of his Department conducted the investigation; and if he will place in the Library a copy of the report of the investigation. [20860]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* We deeply regret all civilian casualties. Protecting the Afghan civilian population is a cornerstone of International Security Assistance Force (ISAF)'s mission, and all British troops undergo comprehensive training on the strict rules of engagement. Where incidents do occur, procedures are in place to ensure they are promptly reported to the chain of command and follow-up actions take place in accordance with ISAF and UK national procedures. This contrasts directly with the attitude of the insurgents, whose indiscriminate use of suicide bombs, roadside explosive devices and human shields cause the majority of civilian deaths and injuries in Afghanistan. We will continue our efforts to prevent insurgents harming civilians and to develop the capacity of Afghan security forces to protect the population.

The records relating to the follow-up actions taken following these incidents are not held centrally by the Department and will take time to identify. I will write to the hon. Member once work has been completed.

Challenger Tanks

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many Challenger 2 tanks will remain in service after 2015; and if he will make a statement. [21297]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review has determined that the number of Challenger 2 tanks in service with the army should reduce by around 40% by April 2011. The precise number of tanks which will be taken out of service will be determined by further, more detailed work into the overall fleet requirement, taking into account factors such as the withdrawal from Germany, revised fleet management options and updated training requirements.

Defence Equipment

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many major military equipment programmes have been cancelled between Initial Gate and Main Gate stages in the last 20 years. [20718]

Peter Luff: The Ministry of Defence's current acquisition process, where projects undergo two investment decision points, was introduced in 1998. Initial Gate seeks approval to undertake the detailed development and an assessment of available options to meet a capability gap. Following Initial Gate projects seek Main Gate approval to proceed with the demonstration and manufacture of their recommended option. Main Gate is the major investment decision, whereas Initial Gate ensures that only projects which meet a requirement and are likely to be deliverable are allowed to continue.

Equipment projects are generally categorised by their value with the largest projects, those in 'Category A', usually worth over £400 million through life. No record since 1998 can be found of any Category A equipment project being cancelled between the Initial Gate and Main Gate decision points.

Defence Reform Unit

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the terms of reference are of his Department's Defence Reform Unit. [19632]

Dr Fox: The terms of reference are available from the Ministry of Defence's website at the following link:

http://www.mod.uk/NR/rdonlyres/F0996135-B43D-44EA-80CE-F0754743C516/0/20100920_DefenceReform_TORs_finalU.pdf

Defence Reform Unit: Finance

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the annual cost to the public purse of his Department's Defence Reform Unit. [19633]

Dr Fox: There are no additional costs to the Defence Budget as a result of the Defence Reform Unit. None of the Steering Group, which Secretary of State has appointed under the chairmanship of Lord Levene, to lead the work are being paid for this task. No consultants have been contracted to work on Defence Reform. The team supporting the steering group from within the Ministry of Defence have been temporarily redeployed from other tasks.

Defence: Procurement

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timescale he has set for the conclusion of the defence reform review. [19656]

Dr Fox: The defence reform unit's review aims to report in July 2011 although implementation will take longer.

Departmental Buildings

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what *(a)* surplus land and buildings and *(b)* telecommunications spectrum and corporate assets his Department plans to sell following the recommendations of the strategic defence and security review. [20419]

Dr Fox: The strategic defence and security review (SDSR) considered the scope for rationalisation of the estate and identified further opportunities: these include the withdrawal of personnel from Germany; closure of some Main Operating Bases; and the creation of tri service Defence communities that will form regional hubs of Defence capability and support activities. No decisions have yet been made regarding the potential sale of any surplus land and buildings.

MOD is currently evaluating its spectrum holdings between 70 MHz and 15 GHz to prepare for an initial release of spectrum in late 2012. This evaluation work will conclude in spring 2011 and a planned timetable of spectrum releases will be published shortly thereafter. In the meantime, MOD will publish a supplementary statement to its Implementation Plan for Spectrum Reform and details regarding a future possible project for industry to assist MOD trade spectrum in the market.

As announced as part of the SDSR findings, the Department intends to sell the Defence Support Group and the Marchwood Sea Mounting Centre.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Ms Harman: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department plans to allocate to *(a)* the Stabilisation Aid Fund, *(b)* the Conflict Prevention Pool, *(c)* the Discretionary Peacekeeping Fund, *(d)* the Special Reserve and *(e)* the security and intelligence fund for (i) 2010-11, (ii) 2011-12, (iii) 2012-13, (iv) 2013-14 and (v) 2014-15. [20207]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 28 October 2010]:* The Conflict Pool was formed by the merger of the Stabilisation Aid Fund and the Conflict Prevention Pool on 1 April 2009.

The Conflict Pool does not routinely draw resources from departmental budgets. The provision is part of a separate HM Treasury settlement on conflict resources which is managed jointly by the Department for International Development, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office and the Ministry of Defence (MOD). We expect to announce detailed allocations for Conflict Pool activity for 2011-12 in the coming weeks.

The Peacekeeping Budget provides resources to cover the United Kingdom's legally binding commitments on assessed peacekeeping costs. This is similarly provided as a separate settlement; Departments do not make additional contributions to this budget.

The MOD does not contribute funds to the Reserve, the administration of which is an HM Treasury responsibility. The MOD is a net recipient of the Reserve, which is used for paying the net additional costs of military operations such as those in Afghanistan. The MOD has published its Request for Resources from the Reserve for 2010-11 in the Parliamentary Main Estimates.

There is no security and intelligence fund. There is, however, a Single Intelligence Account which funds the business of the Intelligence and Security Agencies and from which the MOD is reimbursed for some of the services it provides.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Lindsay Roy: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of its joint strike fighter order; [19388]

(2) how many joint strike fighters he intends to order; [19389]

(3) what the cost to his Department will be of reducing the number of joint strike fighters ordered; [19392]

(4) what the cost to his Department will be of changing the type of joint strike fighters ordered for the Queen Elizabeth-class carriers. [19393]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1), how many Joint Strike Fighter jets he intends to order in the next five years; [19552]

(2) which air-launched weapons he intends will complement the joint strike fighter, as referred to in 'Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty'. [19558]

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many F-35C joint strike fighters will be purchased; at what unit cost; and what the in-service date will be. [19724]

Peter Luff: We remain absolutely committed to the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) programme, which will provide a world-beating aircraft, able to operate from both the sea and land, ideally suited for our future capability needs.

In the first instance, we intend to buy enough JSF aircraft to build up our carrier strike capability, and to operate a balanced fleet of JSF and Typhoon aircraft in the medium to long term. We will confirm the exact number of aircraft in our initial buy at the time of our main investment decision, in line with usual practice.

The decision to purchase the Carrier Variant offers advantages in terms of interoperability with allies, range, and pay load and through life costs over the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing variant, and we are seeking to minimise any delay resulting from the change of variant. We will bring JSF into service, initially in the land environment, and then to deliver a carrier strike capability from around 2020. The aircraft will be equipped with a range of advanced air-to-air and air-to-ground weapons, the exact mix of which will be optimised to reflect the operational requirement.

We have previously committed to purchasing three JSF which will be used for Initial Operational Test and Evaluation. No further orders have been placed. Our changed plans will not therefore incur cancellation costs to the Department. We currently assess that the decision to procure the Carrier Variant will reduce the forecast cost of the JSF programme since the Carrier Variant is likely to be cheaper both to procure and to support through life than the Short Take Off and Vertical Landing variant, which we had previously been planning to buy. The cost of each aircraft depends on when in the overall production programme it is bought and will vary according to a number of factors, such as other partner nations' procurement plans. We do not routinely reveal the forecast cost of future programmes in order to protect the Department's position in commercial negotiations.

Marines

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will hold discussions with representatives of the Merchant Navy on the potential for deployment of Royal Marines on merchant ships to counter piracy; and if he will make a statement. [20824]

Nick Harvey: The UK Government are in constant dialogue with representatives of the UK shipping industry. The Government continue to encourage the shipping industry to adopt the best management practices (BMP) advice endorsed by the International Maritime Organisation. It provides specific advice to global shipping on how to prevent, deter and delay acts of piracy off the Horn of Africa, notably through inexpensive and simple self-protection measures, as well as through advice on course and speed. We encourage all UK shipping to register with the Maritime Security Centre Horn of Africa and transit through the Internationally Recognised Transit Corridor.

The UK Government discourage the carriage and use of firearms on board UK registered ships engaged in routine cargo transport. This position is supported by the UK Chamber of Shipping.

The volume of shipping in higher threat areas would make the provision of sufficient trained and equipped Vessel Protection Detachments prohibitive. Operationally, the Ministry of Defence judges that in most cases the use of Vessel Protection Detachments is not an effective use of military counter piracy resources.

Marines: Manpower

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the Royal Marines of his proposed reduction in the strength of the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [21303]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Marines will bear a share of the reduction in naval manpower of about 5,000 announced in the strategic defence and security review, though the exact numbers have yet to be determined. There will be no impact on 3 Commando Brigade's ability to conduct operations in Afghanistan.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of his proposed reduction in Royal Navy personnel will be to Royal Marine personnel; and what assessment he has made of the effect of such reductions in personnel on recruitment into the *(a)* Special Air Service and *(b)* Special Boat Squadron. [21314]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Marines will bear a share of the reduction in naval manpower announced in the strategic defence and security review, though the exact numbers have yet to be determined. It is a long standing policy of the Government not to comment on matters concerning special forces.

Merlin Helicopters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how many AW101 Merlin ASaC helicopters he plans to order; [21270]

(2) what the in-service timetable for the AW101 Merlin ASaC helicopters is. [21275]

Peter Luff: The future Airborne Surveillance and Control (ASaC) capability is currently in the assessment phase. The Ministry of Defence is continuing to mature its plans for delivering this capability from within the existing Merlin force. The Department will not make a decision on numbers or the in-service date until the Main Gate investment decision point.

Navy: Manpower

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means he plans to reduce the strength of the Royal Navy by 5,000. [21298]

Nick Harvey: While we expect that part of the reduction will be achieved through natural turnover, we intend to introduce a redundancy scheme to deliver the remaining manpower changes. This will aim to ensure that the

Royal Navy maintains the balance of skill, experience, ability and seniority required to deliver operational capability.

Nuclear Submarines

Mr Jenkin: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) under what budgetary headings he expects the one billion pounds of savings in infrastructure costs for the strategic nuclear deterrent identified in the strategic defence and security review to arise; [20482]

(2) what assessment he has made of the potential effects of the outcome of the strategic defence and security review on infrastructural improvements to *(a)* the Atomic Weapons Establishment, Aldermaston, *(b)* HM Naval Base Devonport and *(c)* HM Naval Base Clyde. [20483]

Dr Fox: Within the value for money review's outcomes as set out in the strategic defence and security review (SDSR), it was agreed to defer and potentially to remove over £1 billion of future spending on infrastructure over the next 10 years.

This activity is split into submarine-related work and work related to the command and control of the nuclear deterrent, often referred to as the nuclear firing chain. Infrastructure work at the Atomic Weapons Establishment is part of the Nuclear Weapon Capability Sustainment programme and is outside the scope of the expected £1 Billion savings/deferrals.

The Ministry of Defence made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the SDSR for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment has been made of the adequacy of the protective clothing of nuclear submariners to resist the penetration of their clothing by liquid radioactive contaminants arising from incidents on board nuclear-powered submarines. [20845]

Peter Luff: Submariners are not required to wear specialist protective clothing for the day-to-day operation of nuclear powered submarines. Personal protective equipment is provided for use by crew members in the highly unlikely event that they are exposed to liquid radioactive contaminants resulting from an incident on board submarines. This equipment meets the appropriate European Mark and British Standards for Personal protective equipment.

RAF Feltwell: Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether RAF Feltwell *(a)* forms part of and *(b)* provides support services to the US Missile Defense system. [21160]

Nick Harvey: RAF Feltwell does not form part of, or provide support services to, the US Missile Defense system.

Strategic Defence and Security Review

Jonathan Edwards: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the name is of each *(a)* individual, group and organisation consulted on and *(b)* respondent who submitted evidence or comments to the strategic defence and security review. [21002]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* I invited contributions to the strategic defence and security review (SDSR) in July 2010. The Ministry of Defence (MOD) received over 6,000 responses from MPs, members of the armed forces, public servants within and beyond defence, industry, academics, and the public. The MOD also engaged a wide variety of external organisations during the SDSR including NATO, principal UK and international think tanks and academic institutes, NGOs, industry organisations, and service veterans' and families' organisations.

The Department did not ask those individuals or organisations whether they would be content for their names to be published, and therefore does not intend to release them.

Submarines

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he expects to make the Initial Gate decision on the Future Submarine Project. [20720]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 12 July 2010, *Official Report*, column 447W, to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark).

Trident

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the projected *(a)* discounted and *(b)* undiscounted nuclear decommissioning costs for Trident replacement. [20625]

Dr Fox: The costs of nuclear decommissioning of the successor submarines are dependent on a number of decisions that have yet to be taken, including decisions outside the successor project. Forecasts for these costs will be included in the project's Whole Life Costs that will be prepared ahead of Main Gate.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the running costs of Trident replacement in each of the first five years of its operation. [20626]

Dr Fox: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 3 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 77W, to the hon. Member for Banff and Buchan (Dr Whiteford).

Warships: Decommissioning

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether he has decided which Bay-class ship is to be decommissioned; and if he will make a statement. [20445]

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which Bay-class amphibious support ship his Department plans to decommission. [20415]

Peter Luff: No final decisions have been taken. Work is taking place to determine which elements of the surface fleet will be decommissioned or placed at extended readiness, the outcome of which will be announced around the turn of the year.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Antisocial Behaviour Orders

Mrs Main: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many antisocial behaviour orders have been *(a)* made and *(b)* breached by people resident in St Albans constituency in each of the last three years. [19663]

James Brokenshire: Data collected centrally by the Ministry of Justice on the number of antisocial behaviour orders (ASBOs) issued and breached are collated at Criminal Justice System (CJS) area level, rather than for residents of specific towns. St Albans is in the Hertfordshire CJS area.

The latest figures cover the period to 31 December 2008, and show that for the Hertfordshire CJS area:

in 2006, 35 ASBOs were issued, and 32 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time;

in 2007, 32 ASBOs were issued, and 24 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time; and

in 2008, 16 ASBOs were issued, and 11 were proved in court to have been breached for the first time.

Entry Clearances

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many passports submitted with applications for visas to enter the UK her Department held at the consulate in *(a)* Istanbul and *(b)* Abu Dhabi in each year since 1997. [21470]

Damian Green: All visa applicants must normally submit a valid passport along with their application. The number of visa applications received at the visa sections in *(a)* Istanbul and *(b)* Abu Dhabi in each of the years since 2004 is shown in the following table. Reliable data are not held for previous years. This information reflects the date of receipt of a passport into UKBA offices in Abu Dhabi and Istanbul. It is not appropriate to infer the length of time any passport is held in our offices. However, visa sections always try to return passports and other documents to applicants promptly once a decision has been made.

	Posts	
Applications	*Abu Dhabi*	*Istanbul*
2004	23,442	32,107
2005	19,147	41,237
2006	22,453	54,869
2007	20,099	57,418
2008	33,087	85,302
2009	134,806	81,124
2010[1]	100,157	46,061

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[1] January to June 2010

This information is based on management information. It is provisional and subject to change.

EU Council Directive

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the implications for her Department's policies of the implementation EU Council Directive 2005/71/EC on immigration rules for researchers and scientists. [21411]

Damian Green: The UK has not opted into EU Council Directive 2005/71/EC and has no plans to do so. Researchers and scientists may apply to study and work in the UK under our points-based system.

Firearms: Licensing

Jake Berry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what timetable she has set for her Department's review of firearms legislation. [20653]

James Brokenshire: The Government have indicated that they will consider any changes to the firearms laws in the light of the peer reviews commissioned by the chief constable into the force's handling of the shootings in Cumbria and having regard to any issues emerging from the police investigations into the case. The Government have already submitted evidence to the Home Affairs Select Committee which is conducting an inquiry into firearms controls. Their findings will also be taken into account and a written response made.

Foreign Workers

Mr Clappison: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department pursuant to the answer of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 755W, on foreign workers, how many of the intra-company transfers comprised *(a)* approvals of new applications, *(b)* extensions or amendments of an existing permit and *(c)* applications in respect of which the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. [19745]

Damian Green: The requested information is set out in the following tables:

Work permit intra company transfers approvals 1999 to 2008

By top 3 largest employer user of work permits. Approval of new application (work permit or first permission)

	Number
1999	105
	0
	0
2000	710
	5
	0

Work permit intra company transfers approvals 1999 to 2008

By top 3 largest employer user of work permits. Approval of new application (work permit or first permission)

	Number
2001	1,020
	0
	60
2002	1,315
	[1]—
	285
2003	1,455
	290
	165
2004	2,115
	1,080
	730
2005	2,215
	1,660
	850
2006	2,990
	2,080
	1,135
2007	3,380
	2,090
	2,535
2008	3,600
	1,615
	2,575
Total	18,905
	8,820
	8,340

By top 3 largest employer user of work permits, extension or amendment of an existing permit (in country extension or work permit extension)

	Number
1999	155
	0
	0
2000	450
	0
	0
2001	330
	0
	0
2002	585
	[1]—
	40
2003	710
	310
	60
2004	900
	655
	135
2005	645
	665
	50
2006	725
	585
	95
2007	510
	600
	360
2008	860
	610
	460
Total	5,865
	3,430
	1,205

By top 3 largest employer user of work permits, an application in respect of which the individual has moved to another job with a different employer (in country change of employment)

	Number
1999	0
	0
	[1]—
2000	0
	0
	[1]—
2001	0
	0
	[1]—
2003	10
	0
	5
2004	75
	[1]—
	20

By top 3 largest employer user of work permits, an application in respect of which the individual has moved to another job with a different employer (in-country change of employment)

	Number
2005	15
	[1]—
	[1]—
2006	5
	10
	0
2007	15
	15
	0
2008	[1]—
	30
	5
Total	125
	55
	35

[1] Indicates 1 or 2

Notes:

1. Figures are rounded to nearest 5.
2. Because of rounding, figures may not add up to totals shown.

Caveats:

The figures do not equate to the number of individual nationals who were granted permits because they include those applications approved to extend or amend an existing permit or where the individual has moved to another job with a different employer. Not all those who were granted a permit took up the job and some may have been refused entry clearance or further leave to remain.

Information is only available up until 2008 as the scheme closed at the end of 2008.

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many convictions there have been for offences related to human trafficking in each police force area in each of the last five years. [17626]

Damian Green: Figures from the UK Human Trafficking Centre for convictions for trafficking-related offences by force area are set out in the following tables. These figures cover the period up to the end of June 2010.

Trafficking convictions only by force and year as at 30 June 2010

Convictions for labour exploitation

	Year of sentence						
Force	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Metropolitan Police	0	0	1	0	0	0	1
North Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	[1]3	3
Sussex	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Thames Valley	0	0	0	4	0	0	4
Total	0	0	1	4	2	3	10

[1] Two of these convictions were for conspiracy to traffick

Convictions for sexual exploitation

	Year of sentence							
Force	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Avon and Somerset	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Cheshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	4	0	4
Dorset	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Durham	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Greater Manchester Police	0	0	1	3	3	9	0	16
Hampshire	0	0	0	1	0	1	0	2
Kent	0	0	2	1	1	0	0	4
Lancashire	0	0	0	4	1	0	0	5
Leicestershire	0	0	2	2	0	0	0	4
Metropolitan Police	1	10	11	1	11	9	4	47
Northumbria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
PSNI	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Wales	0	2	0	2	2	0	0	6
South Yorkshire	2	6	0	0	2	5	0	15
Suffolk	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Surrey	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	3
Sussex	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Warwickshire	0	0	5	0	0	0	0	5
West Mercia	0	0	0	1	2	2	0	5
West Midlands	0	1	3	1	0	0	0	5
West Yorkshire	0	1	0	0	4	0	0	5
Wiltshire	0	0	0	0	[1]3	0	0	3
Total	3	21	26	17	34	33	5	139

[1] All three convictions were for conspiracy to traffick.

Convictions not for trafficking but related to the original trafficking offence by force and year as at 30 June 2010

Labour exploitation

	Year of sentence						
Force	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*	*2009*	*2010*	*Total*
Bedfordshire	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Durham	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Leicestershire	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Metropolitan Police	0	1	0	1	2	1	5
North Yorkshire	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Northamptonshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
West Midlands	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Total	0	2	1	3	3	7	16

Sexual exploitation

Force	*Year of sentence* 2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	Total
Cambridgeshire	0	0	1	1	2	0	0	4
Cleveland	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Derbyshire	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
Devon and Cornwall	0	0	0	0	0	5	0	5
Dyfed-Powys	0	0	0	0	0	0	3	3
Essex	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	2
Gloucestershire	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
Greater Manchester Police	0	0	0	3	9	3	0	15
Hampshire	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1
Kent	0	0	0	0	0	2	0	2
Lancashire	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	2
Leicestershire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Lincolnshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Metropolitan Police	1	2	4	2	13	7	3	32
Norfolk	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	2
Northumbria	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	1
Nottinghamshire	0	0	0	0	3	1	0	4
PSNI	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	1
South Wales	0	0	1	0	1	0	0	2
South Yorkshire	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1
Surrey	0	0	0	3	0	0	0	3
West Mercia	0	0	0	2	0	2	0	4
West Midlands	0	0	2	0	0	1	0	3
West Yorkshire	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	2
Total	1	3	10	13	34	24	9	94

Illegal Immigrants

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent discussions she has had with private contractors on procedures for escorting illegal immigrants during their removal from the UK. [19064]

Damian Green: The Home Secretary has not discussed with private contractors any procedures for escorting illegal immigrants during removal from the UK.

I had a meeting with representatives from G4S Care and Justice Services in September 2010.

In September, officials together with G4S and representatives from the Independent Monitoring Board held a bi-monthly meeting to discuss issues affecting the general wellbeing of detainees.

A monthly meeting between UK Border Agency officials and G4S to review operations and performance was held on 20 October. Similar discussions have taken place in October with SERCO and Molynes, who provide escorting services at times of high demand.

Metropolitan Police: Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent representations she has received from the Metropolitan police force on the conviction of people arrested for human trafficking offences. [19472]

Damian Green: I have received no such representation.

Sex Offenders Act 1997

Harriett Baldwin: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether she plans to bring forward proposals to amend the Sex Offenders Act 1997 before Easter 2012. [19979]

James Brokenshire: The Sex Offenders Act 1997 was repealed and replaced by the Sexual Offences Act 2003 which brought together a range of tools and powers for the police and courts to impose to manage sex offenders as well as significant enhancements to the notification requirements (commonly referred to as the sex offenders' register).

In light of the Supreme Court judgment in April 2010, which found that the lifetime notification requirements in the Sexual Offences Act 2003 are incompatible with article eight of the ECHR. Section 82 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003 will need to be amended to remedy this incompatibility and we will bring forward proposals in due course.

UK Border Agency: Finance

Mr Woolas: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much capital funding has been allocated to the UK Border Agency for the period from 2010 to 2015. [19892]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's future capital funding for the period 2010-15 has not yet been allocated following the comprehensive spending review announced on 20th October 2010.

Our priorities remain to secure the border and control migration. We are committed to programmes such as e-Borders and the Immigration Case Working system that will help to reduce the threat of terrorism, crime and immigration abuse and replace costly and outmoded paper work, respectively.

These programmes will help improve our productivity and efficiency and will mean that we can target our resources on those people likely to cause most harm to the UK.

UK Border Agency: Standards

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the UK Border Agency's performance was against each of its service level standards at each major port of entry in the latest period for which figures are available. [21586]

Damian Green: We have interpreted the question as asking about our performance against queue targets within service level agreements published the UK Border Agency's customer charter and those held with local port operators.

Our national service standard for queues is to process 95% of EEA passengers within 25 minutes and non-EEA passengers within 45 minutes.

The UK Border Agency and port operators are also jointly committed to reduce waiting times through performance levels agreed via individual port service level agreements.

The following table outlines the percentage of measured queues that have met the levels set in local service level agreements and performance against the nationally agreed service level standards (in brackets) for the period 1 April 2010 to 30 September 2010.

Region	*EEA performance*	*Percentage Non-EEA performance*
Central	90.7 (96.5)	95.2 (97.7)
South and Europe	96.1 (98.5)	94.3 (98.3)
Heathrow	95.1 (99.5)	84.4 (93.8)
North	98.2 (98.5)	99.6 (97.6)
National	95.3 (98.5)	89.5 (96.5)

Notes:

1. Includes Stansted, Luton, Birmingham, Cardiff, East Midlands, London City and Norwich and Harwich.

2. Includes Gatwick, Calais, Coquelles, Bristol, Bournemouth, Southampton, Exeter, Boulogne, Brussels, Dunkerque, Lille, Newhaven, Paris, Portsmouth, Plymouth.

3. Includes Manchester, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh, Newcastle, Aberdeen, Belfast, Blackpool, Doncaster, Durham Tees, Humberside, Leeds, Prestwick.

CABINET OFFICE

Marriage: Cousins

Jim Fitzpatrick: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office whether the Office for National Statistics collects figures on the number of first cousin marriages. [21243]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your request to ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office, whether the Office for National Statistics collects data on the number of first cousin marriages (21243).

The Office for National Statistics does not collect data on parties who are related to one another at the time of marriage.

Public Bodies: Assets

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what steps he has taken to identify the assets of public bodies to be disposed of as a result of the implementation of his policy on public bodies reform. [21601]

Mr Maude: Implementing the public body reform proposals announced on 14 October, including identifying assets, is the responsibility of the Government Departments that sponsor public bodies. Each Department is currently working with its public bodies to develop plans for implementation.

Questionnaires: Public Expenditure

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office what recent estimate he has made of expenditure by Government Departments on questionnaires which include requests for personal information. [20677]

Mr Hurd: The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question to the Minister for the Cabinet Office, asking what recent estimate he has made of Government expenditure on questionnaires which include requests for personal information. (20677)

Information in the form requested is not readily available and could only be obtained at disproportionate costs.

HEALTH

Antidepressants

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions he has had with the Medicines and Healthcare Products Regulatory Agency on the antidepressant reboxetine. [21145]

Mr Simon Burns: There have been no recent discussions between the Secretary of State for Health and the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency (MHRA) in relation to the antidepressant reboxetine. The MHRA keeps all emerging data in relation to medicinal products, including reboxetine, under close review. Any new data are carefully evaluated and where necessary prescribing advice is updated to reflect the new evidence.

Breast Cancer: Screening

Mr Brine: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will commission research into the merits of extending breast screening invitations to women aged up to 79 years. [21349]

Paul Burstow: The Cancer Reform Strategy (CRS) included the commitment that the NHS Breast Screening Programme (NHS BSP) would be extended to women aged 47 to 73. In June this year, we confirmed in the revision to the NHS Operating Framework 2010-11 that all local breast screening programmes should begin the extension in 2010-11.

To give directly comparable data on the effectiveness of screening the extended age ranges, the extension to the breast screening programme is being randomised, with half of women being invited at age 47-49 and half at age 71-73. Decisions will be taken on extending the programme further once the results of the randomisation project are known.

In the meantime, women over the age of 70 can request free three-yearly screening and should receive the leaflet 'Over 70? You are still entitled to breast screening' (developed jointly with Age UK) to advise them of this fact when they leave the NHS BSP. NHS Cancer Screening Programmes has commissioned research to examine if more can be done to raise awareness of this right.

Care Homes: Registration

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent representations he has received on the effects of the introduction on standards of care and safety in residential homes of the 1 October deadline for full registration of residential care homes with the Care Quality Commission; and if he will make a statement. [21020]

Anne Milton: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care services in England. From 1 October 2010, independent healthcare and adult social care providers were brought within the new registration framework under the Health and Social Care Act 2008, which replaced registration under Care Standards Act 2000. Providers of regulated activities must be registered with CQC, and comply with registration requirements regulations that set out essential levels of safety and quality.

The Department has received two letters about the effects of the introduction of the new registration framework. The first letter was from the trade union Unison raising issues linked to staff morale at CQC and the effectiveness of the new registration process. The second letter was from Merton MIND Management Committee expressing concerns about providers being aware of the introduction of the new standards of care and safety in residential homes and the timescales, cost and quality of inspections under the new standards.

Both letters were brought to the attention of CQC.

Care Homes: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) what recent assessment he has made of the effectiveness of the Care Quality Commission in the inspection and monitoring of standards in residential care homes; and if he will make a statement; [21048]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effectiveness of using enforcement actions by the Care Quality Commission to ensure the health and wellbeing of residents in residential care homes where serious shortcomings have been identified by the Commission. [21050]

Anne Milton: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care, established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008. CQC is accountable to the Secretary of State for discharging its functions, duties and powers effectively and economically.

The Department monitors CQC's financial and operational performance and risks at a general and strategic level. It does not assess CQC's inspection or monitoring of specific residential care homes.

The new registration system for private and voluntary health care and adult social care providers of regulated activities under the Health and Social Care Act 2008 came into effect from 1 October this year. For residential care homes, the new registration system replaces the previous registration system under the Care Standards Act (CSA) 2000.

To be registered and remain registered, providers must comply with registration requirements relating to essential levels of safety and quality, which are set out in regulations. Failure to comply with the requirements is an offence, and CQC has a range of independent enforcement powers that it can exercise. CQC's enforcement policy sets out how it uses its enforcement powers—this has been developed, consulted on, and published by CQC. It replaces the previous enforcement policy CQC had developed to support the CSA registration system.

CQC is required to publish a report of every inspection it carries out. It also publishes an annual report.

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the number of Care Quality Commission inspectors to monitor residential care homes and agencies. [21051]

Anne Milton: The Care Quality Commission (CQC) is the independent regulator of health and adult social care, established by the Health and Social Care Act 2008. The CQC is accountable to the Secretary of State for discharging its functions, duties and powers effectively and economically.

The Department monitors CQC's financial and operational performance and risks at a general and strategic level. It does not assess CQC's inspection or monitoring of specific residential care homes.

CQC is responsible for developing and consulting on its methodology for assessing whether providers are meeting registration requirements regulations. Following a 12-week formal consultation, it published its "Guidance About Compliance" in March 2010. This document explains in more detail how providers can comply with the registration requirements regulations.

In relation to inspection or monitoring of registered providers, CQC has advised us that its frontline staff have an average caseload of 50 services, and that it ensures flexibility around resource across the organisation to support demand at times of peak activity.

Care Quality Commission: Job Satisfaction

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent reports he has received on staff morale amongst staff working for the Care Quality Commission; and if he will make a statement. [21047]

Anne Milton: The Department has received one letter about staff morale among staff working for the Care Quality Commission (CQC) from the trade union Unison. The letter was responded to by the Minister of State for Care Services.

The Department has not received any other reports regarding staff morale at CQC.

CQC is the independent regulator of health and adult social care. As such, it has its own procedures in place to respond to staff concerns. CQC has advised that it holds regular staff forums to look at issues that have been raised and is working with staff to resolve them in future, while ensuring its regulatory function continues to operate effectively.

Clinical Trials

Valerie Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of publishing the results of drug trials; and what assessment he has made of the adequacy of the extent to which such results are disseminated. [21144]

Mr Simon Burns: UK Public Assessment Reports and EU Public Assessment Reports provide information on the results of trials conducted in support of licensed medicinal products and are published on the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency website at:

www.mhra.gov.uk/Publications/PublicAssessmentReports/CON2022548 and on the European Medicines Agency website at:

www.ema.europa.eu/ema/index.jsp?curl=pages/medicines/landing/epar_search.jsp&.jsenabled=true

The law relating to reporting safety issues was strengthened following the concerns around GlaxoSmithKline's reporting of the use of paroxetine in children. The Medicines for Human Use (Marketing Authorisations Etc.) Amendment Regulations 2008 (SI 3097/2008) added to the existing provisions and state explicitly that marketing authorisation holders should report to the competent authority information from clinical trials outside the licensed indication, and information arising from third countries and provide a timescale for the reporting of such information.

The Government support the funding of UK PubMed Central:

www.ukpmc.ac.uk

a free online repository of biomedical research including clinical trial information and the development of the UK Clinical Trials Gateway to make information about clinical trials available to members of the public and clinicians so that they may participate in research appropriate to them.

The EudraCT database that holds protocol information on all trials of medicinal products conducted in any EU member state is accessible only to Competent Authorities of the EU member states, the European Medicines Agency and the European Commission. From early 2011, it will be providing publicly accessible protocol information for all trials approved in Europe other than trials in healthy volunteers.

Diseases: Health Services

Rosie Cooper: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to include provision for rare and complex conditions in his proposed NHS Outcomes Framework. [20984]

Mr Simon Burns: We are developing an NHS Outcomes Framework, which will measure the overall progress of the national health service in delivering better health outcomes for patients.

While it will be important to ensure that the national framework includes a balanced set of outcome goals, it can never be comprehensive in terms of setting specific outcomes for all diseases and conditions. Nevertheless, the consultation proposals set out in "Liberating the NHS: Transparency in Outcomes—a framework for the NHS", represented a deliberate attempt to make sure that the breadth of NHS activity was covered by structuring the framework around five broad outcome goals or domains, with overarching indicators to measure progress in each. Below this, the proposed NHS Commissioning Board will be under a duty to ensure that a comprehensive service is commissioned, including for patients with rare and complex conditions and will be able to commission the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence to develop quality standards to help it in fulfilling this duty.

The Department is currently analysing responses to the consultation ahead of publishing the first NHS Outcomes Framework later in the year.

Eyesight: Health Services

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent discussions his Department has had with representatives of the optical sector on the development of community eye care services. [21598]

Mr Simon Burns: Departmental officials have regular meetings with representatives of the optical sector, as well as organisations representing service users and professionals.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has to include *(a)* treatment of (i) glaucoma, (ii) age-related macular degeneration and (iii) diabetic retinopathy and *(b)* other eye care services within the scope of personal health budgets. [21599]

Mr Simon Burns: Personal health budgets are currently being piloted; 63 areas are actively involved in the pilot programme, involving around half the primary care trusts in England.

Individual pilot sites are free to decide which conditions or services to cover. The pilots are exploring personal health budgets across a wide range of long-term health conditions, but none of the sites are currently focusing on glaucoma, age-related macular degeneration, diabetic retinopathy or other ophthalmic services.

However, as the Government said in the White Paper, 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS', we believe personal health budgets have great potential to help improve outcomes and promote integration between services by putting individuals in control. We are encouraging further pilots to come forward, and would welcome any proposals from new or existing pilot sites.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he plans to take to encourage collaboration between GP commissioning consortia and local optical committees. [21600]

Mr Simon Burns: Local optical committees may prove to be an effective source of advice for general practitioner (GP) commissioning consortia. It will be for local GP commissioners to determine how to collaborate with their local optical committee, service users and other professionals in deciding how to commission local eye care services.

Stephen Barclay: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the representation of local optical committees on local health and well-being boards. [21602]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department's consultation on the Government's White Paper 'Equity and Excellence: Liberating the NHS' closed on 5 October, and the consultation on associated proposals for Increasing Democratic Legitimacy in Health, Transparency in Outcomes: A Framework, Commissioning for Patients and Regulating Healthcare Providers finished on 11 October. One of the subjects for consultation was the membership of the proposed Health and Wellbeing Boards and the flexibilities they should have to specify membership as appropriate locally. The Department is currently considering the responses to the consultations.

Health: Children

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many children under five years whose mother was aged 19 years or under at birth were diagnosed with health problems in *(a)* Hastings and Rye and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available; [20737]

(2) how many children under five years old were diagnosed with health problems in *(a)* Hastings and Rye and *(b)* nationally in the latest period for which figures are available. [20738]

Anne Milton: The information requested is not collected centrally.

For information about children diagnosed with health problems in her constituency, the hon. Member may wish to contact Hastings and Rother Primary Care Trust.

HIV Infection

Conor Burns: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of people living with HIV in the UK who are undiagnosed; and what steps he plans to take to reduce that proportion. [21384]

Anne Milton: In 2008, there were an estimated 83,000 people living with HIV (both diagnosed and undiagnosed). Over a quarter (27%, 22,400) of people were estimated to be undiagnosed. The Health Protection Agency will publish 2009 estimates later this year.

The Department is funding eight projects to assess the feasibility and acceptability of HIV testing in services other than antenatal and sexual health services. Three of the pilots are in hospitals, three in community settings and two are in primary care settings. An interim report will be published later this year and a full report will be produced in 2011.

Hospitals: Construction

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what the mechanism will be for the establishment of a new NHS hospital following the ending of strategic health authorities and primary care trusts. [20977]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government's strategy is to give responsibility for commissioning most hospital and other health care services to general practitioner (GP)-led commissioning consortiums, so that commissioning decisions better reflect the needs of patients. GP consortiums will be accountable to an independent NHS Commissioning Board for the health outcomes they achieve for patients. Autonomous providers including NHS foundation trusts, will be free to make their own investment as long as their schemes are clinically driven and affordable.

Maternity Services: Huddersfield

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many mothers gave birth in the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Birthing Centre between January and June 2010. [21111]

Mr Hurd: I have been asked to reply.

The information requested falls within the responsibility of the UK Statistics Authority. I have asked the authority to reply.

Letter from Stephen Penneck, dated November 2010:

As Director General for the Office for National Statistics, I have been asked to reply to your recent question asking how many mothers gave birth in the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Birthing Centre between January and June 2010. (21111)

Figures for live births by hospital have been compiled from birth registration data. The latest year for which data on place of birth are available is 2009. The table below shows the number of live births in 2009 in the hospital requested, according to this source. Information on place of birth is provided by the informant at registration rather than by the hospitals themselves.

Live births occurring in Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Birthing Centre in 2009

Period	*Number*
1 January to 30 June 2009	294
1 July to 31 December 2009	292
Total 2009	586

Jason McCartney: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many people were transferred from the Huddersfield Royal Infirmary Birthing Centre to other hospitals by emergency ambulance between January and June 2010; and to which hospitals were they transferred. [21112]

Mr Simon Burns: The information requested is not collected centrally. This information may be obtained directly from the Calderdale and Huddersfield NHS Foundation Trust.

Medical Records

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what estimate he has made of the average annual number of occasions on which a healthcare professional may seek to access patients' records via the summary care record database. [21499]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department does not hold information that would make it possible to make a meaningful estimate. However, we are confident that summary care records (SCRs) containing core patient information will prove valuable for patients needing emergency care. We anticipate that their use will increase as more SCRs are created and health care staff who provide emergency care are trained to access SCRs in appropriate situations to support safe care for patients.

Mr David Davis: To ask the Secretary of State for Health if he will take steps to require explicit opt-in consent from a patient to any *(a)* proposal or *(b)* request to add data to their summary care record. [21500]

Mr Simon Burns: The main recommendation of the recent review of the content of the summary care record (SCR), led by Sir Bruce Keogh, was that the core information should only include a patient's medications, allergies, and adverse reactions. Any additional information beyond this should only be added to the SCR with the explicit consent of the patient.

We firmly believe that it is for patients to decide if any additional information should be included in their SCR, supported by appropriate professionals. Following publication of the outcome of the SCR review a letter was sent by officials to each primary care trust (PCT) highlighting that any information added to a patient's SCR over and above the core information should only be done with the explicit consent of the patient. Where additional information has already been added to patients' SCRs, patient consent must be confirmed for the additional information to be retained. Where the explicit consent of the patient is not confirmed, PCTs will advise general practitioner practices to amend the SCR to hold only core information.

NHS: Accountability

Austin Mitchell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what plans he has for public scrutiny and accountability mechanisms in respect of *(a)* foundation trusts and *(b)* GP commissioning. [19587]

Mr Simon Burns: The Government set out their proposals for future scrutiny and accountability of national health service foundation trusts and general practitioner consortiums in the 'Equity and excellence: Liberating the NHS' White Paper. Following consultation on the above, and in light of feedback received, the Government are considering the way forward for health scrutiny and accountability.

NHS: Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) if he will make an estimate of the number of *(a)* nurses, *(b)* doctors and *(c)* medical support staff likely to be made redundant as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review; [21578]

(2) if he will make an estimate of the number of redundancies likely to be made by the NHS as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21579]

Mr Simon Burns: The precise numbers of doctors, nurses and support staff required over the next five years will not be known until the new organisations that will underpin the new system have been designed in more detail.

The Department is consulting on how the new organisations should be designed and, once the results of this are known, an impact assessment will be published.

Streptococcus

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many cases of group B streptococcus infection were recorded in each of the last five years; and what other data his Department collect on the incidence of such infections. [21084]

Anne Milton: This information is not routinely collected by the Department. However, the Health Protection Agency collects data on laboratory reports on blood infections including Group B Streptococcus (GBS). The Health Protection Agency website at:

www.hpa.org.uk/Topics/InfectiousDiseases/InfectionsAZ/StreptococciGroupB/

gives the number of reported GBS cases reported by laboratories as in the following table.

	Cases
2004	1,176
2005	1,250
2006	1,442
2007	1,403
2008	1,550

Streptococcus: Pregnancy

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) whether his Department has conducted a cost-benefit analysis of the introduction of routine screening of pregnant women for group B streptococcus; [21081]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of introducing a pilot screening programme for pregnant women to test for group B streptococcus and what analysis his Department has conducted to inform this estimate. [21085]

Anne Milton: The UK National Screening Committee (UK NSC) advises Ministers and the national health service in all four countries about all aspects of screening policy. The UK NSC reviewed the policy for screening for group b streptococcus (GBS) carriage in pregnancy in 2009 and concluded that the evidence did not support its introduction.

The UK NSC commissioned a clinical and cost effectiveness study comparing different approaches to GBS. The health technology assessment took this work forward on behalf of the UK NSC and published the results in 2007. The main conclusion was that there was considerable uncertainty on the most effective approach to GBS. The study results were considered during the policy review.

The Department has therefore not conducted a cost benefit analysis or estimated the cost of introducing a pilot screening programme.

The UK NSC will review its policy position again on GBS carriage in pregnancy screening in 2012 or earlier if any significant new peer reviewed evidence emerges.

Weather: Health Services

Andrew Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what steps he is taking to equip the NHS to manage winter pressures in 2010-11. [20972]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department has worked with strategic health authorities to ensure the national health service has robust arrangements in place across local health and social care areas to deal with the additional pressures winter can bring. Since the autumn the NHS has been working with its partners locally to address the challenges they will face during the course of the forthcoming winter.

Written Answers to Questions

Thursday 4 November 2010

WOMEN AND EQUALITIES

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much the Government Equalities Office spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21793]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on ministerial hospitality in September or October 2010.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities whether the Government Equalities Office has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21627]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office and its Board will use existing processes to monitor the Government Equalities Office expenditure and the effects of reductions in its budget following the spending review.

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in the settlement letter for the Government Equalities Office in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21565]

Lynne Featherstone: The settlement letter relating to the Government Equalities Office did not identify funding specifically to meet staff redundancy costs.

Philip Davies: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities how many staff of the Government Equalities Office have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22034]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office (GEO) has not offered any enhanced early retirement packages over the past three years.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Minister for Women and Equalities what estimate the Government Equalities Office has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* her and *(b)* each other Minister in the Office in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21862]

Lynne Featherstone: The Government Equalities Office has not spent any money on ministerial travel during September or October 2010.

HOME DEPARTMENT

Animal Experiments: Primates

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many overseas companies designated as breeding and supply establishments to supply non-human primates to the UK for the purposes of scientific research wean infant primates from their mothers at six months or younger. [22007]

Lynne Featherstone: The Home Office has no jurisdiction or remit to designate or approve overseas breeding and supplying centres. The use of non-human primates from an overseas source in regulated procedures is authorised only when the centre in question has demonstrated that animals bred and supplied to licensees in the United Kingdom will have been weaned at more than six months of age except in rare cases where infants have been either abandoned or orphaned.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department if her Department will consider implementing a ban on the import of *(a)* all primates for the purposes of scientific research, *(b)* the offspring of wild-caught primates and *(c)* primates from establishments that trap wild monkeys for breeding purposes. [22039]

Lynne Featherstone: I have no plans to do so. However European Directive 2010/63/EU on the protection of animals used for scientific purposes, published in the Official Journal of the European Union on 20 October 2010, which must be implemented in United Kingdom legislation from 1 January 2013, contains proposed time scales for a move towards the use of F2 non-human primates or animals sourced from self-sustaining colonies.

A detailed assessment of the provisions of the new directive is under way and will in due course be included in a public consultation on options for transposition.

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department *(a)* how many and *(b)* what species of non-human primates imported for the purposes of scientific research were categorised as (i) captive-born (or F1 generation) and (ii) captive-bred (F2+ generation) in (A) 2009 and (B) 2010. [22045][1]

Lynne Featherstone: Although the information currently submitted to the Home Office following the acquisition of each batch of non-human primates provides evidence that animals have been born in captivity, there is currently no requirement for the records to indicate whether animals are F1 or F2+. However, from the information available we estimate the respective totals to be as detailed in the following table.

Numbers of imported captive-born (or F1 generation) and captive-bred (F2+ generation) non-human primates

	F1	*F2*
2009		
Common marmoset	0	100
Rhesus macaque	0	44
Cynomolgus macaque	1,257	958
2010 (reported to date)		
Common marmoset	0	0
Rhesus macaque	0	40

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[1] *[Official Report, 9 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 9MC.]*

Numbers of imported captive-born (or F1 generation) and captive-bred (F2+ generation) non-human primates

	F1	*F2*
Cynomolgus macaque	970	545

Henry Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what her Department's policy is on the importation to the UK for the purposes of scientific research of *(a)* the offspring of wild-caught primates and *(b)* non-human primates from establishments that trap wild monkeys for breeding purposes. [22046]

Lynne Featherstone: Within current policy the use of non-human primates from an overseas source in regulated procedures is authorised only when the centre in question has demonstrated that it provides appropriate standards of housing and care for animals likely to be bred and supplied to licensees in the United Kingdom. Where applicable, the breeding centre should also have a policy of reducing dependence on wild-caught animals for future breeding stock at least in relation to the animals likely to be bred and supplied to the UK. The number of wild-caught animals introduced into the colony for breeding should be in accordance with restrictions imposed by the relevant national authority. Where the breeding centre is capturing wild or feral primates it should have a clearly defined and effective process for ensuring that any person trapping primates is adequately trained and supervised in humane methods of capture.

Entry Clearances

Mr Raab: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department whether the Government has opted in to *(a)* the EU Directive establishing the conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals entering the EU through an intra-company transfer and *(b)* the EU Directive on conditions of entry and residence of third country nationals for the purpose of seasonal employment. [21718]

Damian Green: The UK has not opted in to either of these EU Directives.

EU Blue Card: Engineers

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what assessment her Department has made of the merits of implementing the EU Blue Card scheme for engineers and IT technicians. [21413]

Damian Green *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The UK has not opted into the EU Blue Card scheme and has no plans to do so. Engineers and IT technicians may apply to work in the UK under our Points-Based System.

Foreign Nationals: Prisoners

Mr Stewart Jackson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps she is taking to remove from the UK foreign prisoners held in the prison estate under immigration powers after completion of their sentences; and if she will make a statement. [20966]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency makes every effort to ensure that a person's removal by deportation coincides, as far as possible, with his/her release from prison on completion of sentence. Where sentence length allows, the UK Border Agency will consider deportation up to 18 months prior to the earliest point of removal.

Foreign nationals who are served with a deportation notice have the right of appeal against the decision before the courts.

Deportation can be delayed in a number of ways. Judicial challenge can be used as a means to frustrate removal. This is being tackled through improved legal and case working in the UK Border Agency and closer co-operation with the judiciary.

There may be delays in deportation if foreign national prisoners do not fully co-operate with the documentation process. Failing to answer questions or providing false information will prevent or delay the UK Border Agency obtaining a travel document to facilitate their removal. Where there are difficulties in obtaining travel documents these issues are taken up directly with the relevant embassy or high commission.

The Government are committed to exploring ways of removing these individuals even earlier. This will include working with the prisons, courts and the police to build on our capacity to gather intelligence information on nationality at an earlier stage.

Human Trafficking

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what the title is of the official in her Department who has lead responsibility for human trafficking policy. [21735]

Damian Green: Policy responsibility for human trafficking rests with the Organised and Financial Crime Unit in the Home Office which is headed by a deputy director.

Identity Cards

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what estimate she has made of the saving to the Exchequer arising from her decision not to introduce compulsory identity cards in each of the next five years. [21131]

Damian Green *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* It is estimated that exchequer savings of approximately £86 million will be realised from cancelling ID cards and the National Identity Register over the next four years.

Immigration Controls: Foreign Workers

Alan Johnson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what discussions she has had with the Office for Budget Responsibility on the effect on economic growth of a permanent cap on the number of immigrant workers. [13921]

Mrs May: I have not discussed with the Office for Budget Responsibility the impact of a migration limit on growth, but Home Office officials are currently assessing the potential impacts in liaison and consultation with other Government Departments.

Immigration: Detainees

Caroline Dinenage: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has to accelerate the decision-making process for immigrants being held in detention centres. [21259]

Damian Green: Detention is important in ensuring that those who do not have a basis to remain in the United Kingdom can be removed from the UK expeditiously once their case is decided. We always prefer that people leave the UK voluntarily rather than have their return enforced but if this option is refused then it will become necessary to enforce removal including the arrest and detention of those who refuse to comply. The agency is committed to making faster decisions that are right first time but is also committed to ensuring that speed is balanced with quality.

Immigration: Pakistan

Stella Creasy: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what plans she has for the future consideration of immigration applications from students and others who have been affected by the recent floods in Pakistan. [21422]

Damian Green: We will continue to assess visa applications from Pakistan against the immigration rules. We will take into account any compelling compassionate circumstances when assessing individual visa applications, but we do not intend to relax the requirements.

Immigration: Research

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what research her Department has *(a)* commissioned and *(b)* evaluated on the likely effects of the proposed immigration cap on (i) academic, scientific and technological research and (ii) high-technology industry. [21412]

Damian Green *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* We have made it clear that we want to continue attracting the brightest and the best to the UK. As part of this commitment, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary launched a consultation over the summer to ensure that we gathered a wide range of views and evidence, before announcing our plans for the first full annual limit. The consultation is now closed and we have received a high volume of responses which are being carefully assessed. The Government will announce its decisions in due course.

Members: Correspondence

Mr Baron: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department when she plans to reply to the letters of 4 August and 29 September 2010 from the hon. Member for Basildon and Billericay, on a constituent, Mr S Deleay. [20349]

James Brokenshire *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* I wrote to my hon. Friend on 4 November 2010.

Slavery

Mr Bone: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what steps her Department took to mark Anti-Slavery Day 2010; and what guidance her Department provided to other Government departments on marking that day. [19848]

Damian Green *[holding answer 27 October 2010]:* Anti-Slavery Day provides an excellent focal point around which the voluntary sector can raise awareness of human trafficking as a problem and their work to help combat it.

In the light of this, on 18 October I visited Stop the Traffik to hear about and discuss their work in establishing community groups throughout the United Kingdom aimed at actively raising awareness of the dangers of human trafficking.

In addition to this the UK Border Agency published updated guidance on trafficking and its revised guidance for competent authorities.

Vetting

Anna Soubry: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department what recent progress she has made on reviewing the effectiveness of the vetting and barring scheme as a means of protecting children and vulnerable adults; and if she will make a statement. [21929]

Lynne Featherstone: I refer my hon. Friend to the written ministerial statement made by my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary on 22 October 2010, *Official Report,* columns 77-78WS.

Visas: Pakistan

John Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how many Pakistani citizens were refused visas *(a)* by her Department's Abu Dhabi office in the 12 months since the opening of that office and *(b)* in the 12 months four years prior to that date. [20963]

Damian Green: The UK Border Agency's Visa Section in Abu Dhabi assumed responsibility for processing all non-settlement visa applications lodged in Pakistan on 1 November 2008. In the 12 months to 31 October 2009, a total of 40,612 visa applications from Pakistani nationals were refused at the visa section.

The number of visa applications from Pakistani nationals that were refused at the visa section in Abu Dhabi in the each of the four years prior to 1 November 2008 is shown in the following table. The vast majority of these applications would have been lodged by Pakistani nationals resident in United Arab Emirates. Applications from those resident in Pakistan were processed in Islamabad.

As at November to October	*Number*
2004-05	768
2005-06	762
2006-07	799
2007-08	444

HEALTH

Cancer: Health Services

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what progress has been made on his Department's review of the implementation of the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence Guidance on improving supportive and palliative care for adults with cancer; and if he will make a statement. [21732]

Anne Milton: A review of progress undertaken by the National Cancer Action Team (NCAT) in January 2010 showed that one cancer network out of 28 had fully implemented the guidance. Of the 10 key priority areas, two had been implemented across all the networks and varying degrees of progress was reported in the remaining areas.

The two priority areas that have been implemented across all cancer networks are: for all multidisciplinary team staff to attend advanced communication skills training; and to have mechanisms in place to ensure that the views of patients and carers are taken into account in developing and evaluating cancer and palliative care services.

A full report on the review of progress undertaken in January, together with an update on the progress made since that evaluation, is scheduled to be published by the end of December.

Since the publication of the Improving Outcomes Guidance (IOG) on Supportive and Palliative Care, other strategies have been published, such as the End of Life Care Strategy, which have overtaken the IOG. NCAT will therefore not provide any further detailed monitoring of the implementation of this IOG.

We are currently undertaking a review of the Cancer Reform Strategy to set the direction for cancer services for the next five years. The updated strategy, to be published in the winter, will set out the future direction for cancer services, including the future direction for the monitoring of IOGs.

Care Homes: Standards

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Health which residential care homes have been subject to enforced closure by the Care Quality Commission since the Commission was established. [21049]

Mr Simon Burns: The Care Quality Commission is the independent regulator of health and adult social care providers in England. It has a range of enforcement powers in relation to the registration of providers, including (in the most serious cases) closure of services.

The Care Quality Commission has provided the following information.

The registration of eight care home providers has been subject to enforced cancellation by the Commission since it became operational on 1 April 2009. One of these was an urgent cancellation under section 20 of the Care Standards Act 2000. These are:

16 Burghley Road, London, NW5 1UE

Kenilworth Residential Home, 13-14 Linton Road, Hastings, TN34 1TW

Mervyn Lodge, 33 Ashby Road, DE15 OLQ

Carleton House, 33 St Lawrence Avenue, Worthing, BN14 7JJ

Glen Eden, 45 Richmond Road, Worthing, BN11 4AT

Forest View Nursing Home, 100-104 West Coker Road, Yeovil, BA20 2JG

Sherwood Lodge, 42 - 44 Stuart Road, Gillingham, ME7 4AD

Ollerton Manor Care Home, Wellow Road, Newark, NG22 9AH[1]

[1] Closed under section 20 of the Care Standards Act 2000.

Community Hospitals

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his policy is on the role of community hospitals in the NHS; and if he will make a statement. [21869]

Mr Simon Burns: Community hospitals provide a vital community resource to support patients in need of rehabilitation and recuperation, preventing unnecessary admissions to hospitals and supporting a rapid return to independence and good health.

The Government are committed to helping the national health service work better by extending best practise on improving discharge from acute hospital and increasing access to care and treatment in the community.

Under our proposals for new commissioning arrangements, general practitioners rather than primary care trust managers will decide how to use NHS resources to get the best health care and outcomes for their patients.

Dental Services

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Health when he next plans to review his Department's document Best Practice HTM 01-05 on dental surgeries; and whether he has made a recent assessment of the effectiveness of decontamination practices in dental surgeries. [21246]

Mr Simon Burns: The Health Technical Memorandum (HTM) 01-05 is a living document and the Department has made a commitment to update it to reflect new evidence as this becomes available. Further, a commitment has been made review the entire document within two years of publication. Dental practices are required within essential quality requirements to have a plan in place to demonstrate how they will achieve best practice. The primary aim of the HTM 01-05 is to encourage practices to meet essential quality requirements and to encourage further progression and improvement.

The Department, in partnership with the Health Protection Agency and the national health service, has recently completed a Dental National Decontamination Survey, the principal aim of which is to establish a baseline of the quality of local decontamination in dental practices against the requirements in the HTM 01-05. A provisional report is expected in the next few weeks.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18409]

Mr Simon Burns: The Department (excluding its agency—the Medicines and Healthcare products Regulatory Agency) spent £415,686.88 on overseas visits by senior officials in the financial year 2009-10. All travel is undertaken in accordance with the Civil Service Management Code.

Details of business expenses (included in the total above) and hospitality received for the Department's directors general and above are available on the Department's website at:

www.dh.gov.uk/en/Aboutus/Ministersand DepartmentLeaders/Departmentdirectors/DH_110759

Drugs: Rehabilitation

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what his most recent estimate is of the number of people under the age of *(a)* 18 and *(b)* 16 years who are in abstinence-based rehabilitative treatment; and how many people in each age group were placed in such treatment in (i) 2008-09 and (ii) 2009-10. [17091]

Sarah Teather: I have been asked to reply.

The overall aim of all substance misuse treatment for young people is abstinence from their problem drug or alcohol use. Young people's substance misuse is markedly different to that of adults, and so is the combination of treatment and support they receive. Most receive psychosocial treatment—talking therapies to change behaviour and address the causes of drug or alcohol misuse. The aim is to reduce or stop completely the young person's use.

24,053 young people under the age of 18 were in treatment for drug or alcohol misuse in 2008-09. Of these, 11,259 were under the age of 16. These are the most recent figures available.

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the outcome of his Department's randomised injectable opiate treatment trials. [21274]

Anne Milton: Any approach that helps people get off drugs for good should be explored. The results of the randomised injectable opiate treatment trial were reported in *The Lancet* on 28 May 2010. The report concluded that in this group of entrenched users who had not responded to other forms of treatment, treatment with supervised injectable heroin leads to significantly lower use of street heroin than does supervised injectable methadone or optimised oral methadone.

In the light of these results, we have asked the Institute of Psychiatry's National Addiction Centre to carry out further work in order to explore:

how to deliver a low-volume service such that it is accessible to a population which is relatively thinly-spread, given that patients need to travel to the clinic twice daily;

the commissioning procedures appropriate to a service with these constraints;

how referral pathways should operate; and

the case management that is necessary to ensure that people progress as appropriate to less intensive treatment once they are stabilised.

We will shortly be publishing a new drug strategy, which will set out a new approach and greater ambition to tackling drugs dependency. It will set out an ambition for a recovery focused system that is locally led and supports individuals to tackle and overcome their dependency, reduce the harm to themselves, their families and the wider community, and make a positive contribution to society. It will encourage local areas to deliver against these outcomes drawing on the evidence of what works.

Health Services

Mr Brazier: To ask the Secretary of State for Health (1) how many patients were placed on the Liverpool Care Pathway in each year since 2004; and what proportion of such patients died in each such year; [19288]

(2) which hospitals have introduced the Liverpool Care Pathway in each year since 2004; how many patients in each such hospital were placed on the Pathway in each such year; and how many patients in each hospital placed on the Pathway died in each such year. [19289]

Paul Burstow: The Liverpool Care Pathway (LCP) was developed by the Marie Curie Palliative Care Institute in Liverpool. It is an established and respected tool used to support care in the last hours or days of life. Its purpose is to prevent dying patients from the distress of receiving treatment or tests that are no longer beneficial, while ensuring that they receive appropriate interventions, including medication, to control their symptoms.

The Department does not collect information centrally about the numbers of patients being treated on the LCP, nor the numbers of hospitals who have introduced the LCP as a possible option for treating patients.

Meat Hygiene Service

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment he has made of the merits of reviewing the *(a)* responsibilities and *(b)* efficiency of the Meat Hygiene Service following its transfer to the Food Standards Agency. [21390]

Anne Milton: The Food Standards Agency (FSA) has responsibility for delivering official controls in all approved fresh meat establishments in Great Britain under EC Regulation 854/2004. It is not within the remit of the FSA to review its delivery responsibilities under this legislation.

In 2007 the Meat Hygiene Service (MHS) implemented a number of efficiency programmes. As a result of these programmes the cost of delivering meat official controls in Great Britain has reduced significantly from £91.3 million in 2006-07 to £68.1 million at the end of 2009-10, and in Northern Ireland has reduced from £7.1 million in 2007-08 to £6.6 million at the end of 2009-10. Further savings of £0.6 million from the creation of the FSA's Integrated Corporate Services will be attributed to corporate support for meat official controls. Following the merger with the MHS, the FSA has launched an Operations Programme to review all official controls delivered on behalf of the FSA to maximise its efficiency and effectiveness.

Medicine: Education

Stephen Mosley: To ask the Secretary of State for Health how many and what proportion of graduates of medical schools in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009 emigrated in the year following completion of their degree. [20715]

Anne Milton: There data are not collected centrally.

Soft Drinks

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made on the effect of high energy drinks on the health of *(a)* young children and *(b)* others; and if he will make a statement. [21490]

Anne Milton: The Department has not made any specific assessment on the effects of high energy drinks. Based on expert advice from the Committee on the Medical Aspects of Food Policy, we recommend that the intake of non-milk extrinsic sugars i.e. those added to food should not exceed 60g/day or 11% of food energy.

Government advice discourages giving babies sugary drinks and food, and older children and families are encouraged to substitute sugary drinks with water, milk (ideally semi-skimmed), sugar free drinks, sugar free squash, or unsweetened fruit juice.

Streptococcus: Health Services

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Health what assessment his Department has made for benchmarking purposes of best practice in the treatment of group B streptococcal infections in other EU member states; and if he will make a statement. [21841]

Anne Milton: The treatment of group B streptococcal infection is a matter for clinicians and should be in line with evidence-based clinical guidance such as those published by the National Institute for Health and Clinical Excellence or in this case the Green Top guideline published by the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists (RCOG) in November 2003. This guidance can be found on the RCOG website at:

www.rcog.org.uk/files/rcog-corp/uploaded-files/GT36GroupBStrep2003.pdf

The Department does not undertake benchmarking of best practice in clinical treatment.

JUSTICE

Courts: Warrington

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether he plans to review the provision of court services in Warrington. [21746]

Mr Djanogly: On 23 June, my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Justice and Lord Chancellor announced proposals on the future provision of courts services across England and Wales. The consultation paper for the HMCS area of Cheshire and Merseyside, which can be found at:

http://www.justice.gov.uk/consultations/consultation-cp03-10.htm

did not contain proposals concerning courts in Warrington, except that should Runcorn county court close, Warrington county court would potentially need to increase its sitting days to absorb Runcorn's hearings, which it has the capacity to do. Runcorn county court is a civil hearing centre only with all its administrative work handled at Warrington.

The consultation closed on 15 September and we aim to announce decisions by the end of the year. There are no plans at present to further review the provision of court services in Warrington.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21630]

Mr Kenneth Clarke: The Ministry of Justice routinely monitors its expenditure and the outputs resulting from that spending and publishes this information on a regular basis, such as through published accounts, annual reports, impact assessments and a wide range of statistical and research publications.

Family Courts: Offenders

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice how many people serving a custodial sentence could not be identified in the media because of an injunction by the Family Court in the latest period for which figures are available. [21503]

Mr Djanogly: Information on the number of people serving a custodial sentence who cannot be identified because of an injunction made by the Family Court is not available centrally. This information can be obtained only by inspection of individual case files at disproportionate cost.

Legal Services Commission: Social Workers

Mr David: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what representations he has received on the proposals of the Legal Services Commission to cap the fees payable to independent social workers appearing as expert witnesses in family courts. [21493]

Mr Djanogly: This change was consulted on as part of the joint Ministry of Justice (MOJ) and Legal Services Commission (LSC) consultation, "Family Legal Aid Funding from 2010" which took place between December 2008 and April 2009. Following the full public consultation, it was confirmed in the consultation response that payment for legally aided independent social work in public and private law children cases would be capped to the same level as that paid by the Children and Family Court Advisory Service (CAFCASS). The consultation response was published on 21 October 2009 and is available on the LSC website at:

https://consult.legalservices.gov.uk/inovem/consult.ti/FamilyFees2008/listdocuments

Although both the LSC and the MOJ have continued to receive additional representations from independent social workers about the change, it is considered that it is not an effective use of public money for the LSC to pay higher rates than those set by CAFCASS.

Proceeds of Crime

Mr Laurence Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what recent estimate he has made of the *(a)* cost to the public purse of receivers and *(b)* amount recovered through confiscation orders brought about by the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002; and if he will make a statement. [22018]

Mr Djanogly: Receivers fees are paid from the amounts recovered from criminals, therefore no amount is paid from the public purse. However, prior to 1 October 2010, prosecution agencies had to pay indemnities to the receivers if the amount collected was less than their fees. For example, the CPS paid £112,333 during 2008-09 and £29,875 during 2009-10. Following the new procurement process for receivers that came into effect on 1 October 2010, the contract no longer includes indemnities for receivers, therefore no receivers fees will be paid from the public purse.

HMCS pays all receivers fees. The following table records how much has been paid on a regional basis during the last two financial years.

£

HMCS region	*2008-09*	*2009-10*
London	632,210	984,624
Midlands	366,362	719,451
North East	197,986	91,806
North West	359,781	443,248
South East	886,742	393,371
South West	212,872	151,523
Wales	252,739	316,180
Total	2,908,692	3,100,203

For the period 2004-05 to 2009-10 a total of £233.4 million has been recovered using confiscation orders under the Proceeds of Crime Act, of which £25.7 million has been returned to the victims of crime.

For the period from 1 April 2010 to 31 October 2010, a total of £42 million has been recovered using the Proceeds of Crime Act legislation, of which £7.7 million has been returned to the victims of crime.

£

	Compensation to the victims of crime	*Total amount recovered, including compensation and receivers' fees*
2004-05	533,913	6,664,423
2005-06	861,011	18,578,401
2006-07	2,833,007	29,930,819
2007-08	4,735,859	52,779,042
2008-09	6,955,176	61,483,968
2009-10	9,782,640	63,984,361
Total	25,701,606	233,421,014

This data was extracted from the Joint Asset Recovery Database (JARD), as at 1 November 2010. No central database was present prior to 2004-05, so prior data are unavailable.

Sentencing

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice pursuant to the answer of 25 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 41-43W, on sentencing, for what categories of offence those with 15 or more convictions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence had been convicted; and how many such offenders had received *(a)* between 16 and 25, *(b)* between 26 and 50, *(c)* between 51 and 75, *(d)* between 76 and 100 and *(e)* 101 or more convictions. [21260]

Mr Blunt: Table 1 shows offence categories for offenders with 15 or more convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence. Table 2 shows the number of offenders who were sentenced for indictable offences by number of previous convictions and cautions. These figures are derived from table 6.2 of 'Sentencing Statistics: England and Wales 2009' which was published on 21 October 2010. The published table gives a breakdown of offenders sentenced by number of previous convictions and cautions, and the same basis has been used for this answer.

Table 1: Number of offenders with 15 or more convictions or cautions who did not receive an immediate custodial sentence for an indictable offence by offence category, England and Wales, 2007-09

Number of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Violence against the person	4,036	4,257	4,677
Sexual offences	112	130	111
Burglary	3,018	3,172	2,980
Robbery	81	122	100
Theft and handling stolen goods	24,825	29,025	31,289
Fraud and forgery	1,131	1,195	1,232
Criminal damage	1,119	1,040	1,018
Drug offences	6,606	8,061	9,205
Indictable motoring offences	204	188	169
Other indictable offences	6,517	6,307	5,890
Total	47,649	53,497	56,671

Table 2: Number of offenders who were sentenced for indictable offences by number of previous convictions and cautions, England and Wales, 2007-09

Number and percentage of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
Number of offenders sentenced			
0 to 15 previous convictions/cautions	240,032	242,477	238,091
16 to 25 previous convictions/cautions	42,032	45,742	44,772
26 to 50 previous convictions/cautions	27,761	32,792	34,068

Table 2: Number of offenders who were sentenced for indictable offences by number of previous convictions and cautions, England and Wales, 2007-09

Number and percentage of offenders

	2007	*2008*	*2009*
51 to 75 previous convictions/cautions	2,911	3,677	4,389
76 to 100 previous convictions/cautions	624	824	817
101 or more previous convictions/cautions	478	644	747
All offenders	313,838	326,156	322,884
Number of offenders who do not receive an immediate custodial sentence			
0 to15 previous convictions/cautions	185,382	184,983	184,263
16 to 25 previous convictions/cautions	25,287	27,504	28,105
26 to 50 previous convictions/cautions	16,367	19,180	20,913
51 to 75 previous convictions/cautions	1,605	2,091	2,660
76 to 100 previous convictions/cautions	334	445	455
101 or more previous convictions/cautions	243	340	385
All offenders	229,218	234,543	236,781
Percentage of offenders who do not receive an immediate custodial sentence			
0 to 15 previous convictions/cautions	77.2	76.3	77.4
16 to 25 previous convictions/cautions	60.2	60.1	62.8
26 to 50 previous convictions/cautions	59.0	58.5	61.4
51 to 75 previous convictions/cautions	55.1	56.9	60.6
76 to 100 previous convictions/cautions	53.5	54.0	55.7
101 or more previous convictions/cautions	50.8	52.8	51.5
All offenders	73.0	71.9	73.3

The figures have been drawn from the police's administrative IT system, the police national computer, which, as with any large scale recording system, is subject to possible errors with data entry and processing. The figures are provisional and subject to change as more information is recorded by the police.

HOUSE OF COMMONS COMMISSION

Parliamentary Education Service

Jo Swinson: To ask the hon. Member for Middlesbrough, representing the House of Commons Commission, pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 176-7W, on the Parliamentary Education Service, for what reasons the House of Commons Commission did not accept recommendation 4 of the report of the Speaker's Conference on parliamentary representation. [21743]

Sir Stuart Bell: Recommendation 4 of the report of the Speaker's Conference on parliamentary representation recommended that the objectives of the Parliamentary Education Service should in future include encouraging a wider range of people to become candidates for election to Parliament.

The objectives of the Education Service do not need to be changed as encouraging a wider range of people to become candidates, alongside encouraging other forms of democratic engagement, can already be effected under existing objectives. The answer given on 26 October highlighted the MP for a week game and the UK Youth Parliament as examples where this is done directly. There are many other examples, such as the Speaker's Schools Council awards scheme, where Parliament's Education Service helps a wide range of young people to acquire a taste for being elected representatives, encouraging them onto a path which may lead towards becoming candidates for election to Parliament.

ENERGY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Armed Forces: Accommodation

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether he plans to take steps to ensure the take-up of the Green Deal in respect of service family accommodation. [18334]

Gregory Barker: In developing the Green Deal, which is to be introduced in 2012, we will work to ensure that all households are eligible to take up offers which can increase the energy efficiency of their homes.

Civil Nuclear Constabulary

Christopher Pincher: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will make an assessment of the merits of transferring responsibility for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary to the Secretary of State for the Home Department. [21245]

Charles Hendry: The Department has policy responsibility for the security of the UK's civil nuclear industry, and this includes responsibility for the Civil Nuclear Police Authority and Civil Nuclear Constabulary. The Department's responsibility for the safety of civil nuclear power stations in the UK, and for ensuring the security and resilience of the energy sector as a whole, means that DECC is best placed to effectively discharge Government's responsibility for the Civil Nuclear Constabulary. The Department keeps the arrangements for security in the civil nuclear industry under continuous review to ensure they are robust and effective, and works closely with other Departments with an interest in security issues, including the Home Office.

My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Home Secretary are both members of the National Security Council (NSC) that was established on 12 May by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and has been tasked with overseeing all issues related to national security, intelligence co-ordination, and defence strategy, and of its nuclear sub-committee, NSC(N). This structure ensures that important security issues can be considered by all relevant Ministers from across Government.

Climate Change: Carbon Emissions

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what recent progress his Department has made on the reduction of UK climate change emissions. [22000]

Gregory Barker: Latest provisional statistics indicate that the UK's greenhouse gas emissions have fallen by just over 24% against 1990 levels by 2009[1], taking into account the effects of emissions trading. Final emissions data for 2009 will be published in February 2011. Further information can be found in the independent Committee on Climate Change's latest annual report on progress towards meeting our carbon budgets, published on 30 June, and the Government's response (published 14 October 2010). Both publications are available in the Libraries of the House.

[1] Source:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/climate_change/332-1990-2009-provisional-progress-data.pdf

Liquid Petroleum Gas

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what information his Department holds on the net length of time micro-combined heat and power technology fuelled by *(a)* gas and *(b)* liquefied petroleum gas can contribute to carbon dioxide emission reduction in respect of an energy generation system decarbonising over time. [22353]

Gregory Barker: This issue was raised in consultation as part of the Heat and Energy Saving Strategy consultation. The analysis of responses in September 2009 indicated that there was no clear answer to the question of the degree to which combined heat and power powered by fossil fuel will be less advantageous as electricity generation overall becomes less carbon intensive, because this is likely to depend on a range of factors, particularly the overall energy mix, carbon intensity, and the nature of infrastructure and design. It will also depend on the kind of heating system the micro-CHP unit is replacing.

The Department has published guidance on its website on how to value energy use and greenhouse gas emissions over time for the purposes of business cases and impact assessment. This includes assumptions about the rate of decarbonisation of the electricity generation system. The Committee on Climate Change has also carried out modelling work in this area.

Roger Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what assessment he has made of the merits of including schemes for micro-combined heat and power technology fuelled by *(a)* gas and *(b)* liquefied petroleum gas in the proposed Green Deal; and if he will make a statement. [22354]

Gregory Barker: It is intended that a range of energy saving measures, which are expected to pay for themselves over a set period of time through savings on energy bills, will qualify for green deal finance under the Green Deal for businesses. Decisions on the specific measures and technologies which will be eligible for green deal finance will be taken in due course.

Nuclear Fuels: Transport

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change if he will discuss with the Secretary of State for the Home Department an increase in the level of security provided for the transport of nuclear materials by train through densely populated residential areas in the West Midlands. [21700]

Charles Hendry: The Department has policy responsibility for the security of the UK's civil nuclear industry, which includes the security of nuclear material in transit. Regulation in this area reflects the UK's international obligations and best practice, and is enforced by the independent security regulator, the Office for Civil Nuclear Security (OCNS). The Department keeps the arrangements for the security of the transportation of civil nuclear material under continuous review to ensure they are robust and effective, and works closely with other Departments with an interest in security issues, including the Home Office.

My right hon. Friends the Secretary of State and the Home Secretary are both members of the National Security Council (NSC) that was established on 12 May by my right hon. Friend the Prime Minister and has been tasked with overseeing all issues related to national security, intelligence co-ordination, and defence strategy, and of its nuclear sub-committee, NSC(N). This structure ensures that important security issues can be considered by all relevant Ministers from across Government.

Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change whether his Department has established processes to monitor any effects of proposed reductions in its expenditure. [21634]

Gregory Barker: DECC will shortly publish a Business Plan which will contain information on the Department's priorities over the next four years and includes information about areas that are no longer priorities. Further, the Business Plan will provide indicators that can be used to monitor DECC's performance on both delivery and costs.

It is also the case that the Treasury published an Equality Impact Assessment of the spending review, detailing the impact of the cuts on specific groups within society. DECC will continue to ensure that the decisions it makes are fair by undertaking Equality Impact Assessments on its policies.

Wind and Nuclear Power

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Energy and Climate Change what the average cost is of a unit of energy generated through *(a)* wind power and *(b)* nuclear power. [21264]

Charles Hendry: The table, which will be placed in the Library, is taken from Mott Macdonald (2010) and gives levelised cost estimates (average generation cost per megawatt-hour) for new build plants in the main large-scale electricity generation technologies in the UK, including onshore wind, offshore wind and nuclear, at current engineering, procurement and construction (EPC) contract prices, and is available at:

http://www.decc.gov.uk/assets/decc/Statistics/Projections/71-uk-electricity-generation-costs-update-.pdf

It should be noted that for the purposes of presentation, the table only gives either "FOAK" (first-of-a-kind) prices or "NOAK" (nth-of-a-kind) prices for each technology.

As new technologies are deployed it is likely that costs will fall due to learning. The second table, also being placed in the Library, sets out the estimated levelised costs for projects started in 2017 with the assumption that all technologies have reached "nth of a kind" status. It shows the expectation that new nuclear will cost approximately £68/MWh. Offshore wind and onshore wind are estimated to cost approximately £112/MWh and £86/MWh respectively.

It should be noted that the estimates of levelised costs for different types of electricity generation are highly sensitive to the assumptions used for capital costs, fuel and EU ETS allowance prices, operating costs, load factor, and other drivers, meaning that there is significant uncertainty around these estimates.

ENVIRONMENT, FOOD AND RURAL AFFAIRS

Agriculture: Competitiveness

Andrew Stephenson: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what steps her Department is taking to assist the farming industry to become more competitive. [21651]

Mr Paice: In England we are encouraging the farming industry to increase its competitiveness through capital investment, skills development, innovation and technical progress.

We are also identifying ways to reduce the regulatory burden through the Task Force on Farm Regulation, pushing for CAP reform to improve the industry's ability to respond to consumer demand, providing rural development grants, funding research into efficient food production and working with industry on skill development and climate change issues.

Agriculture: Subsidies

Paul Flynn: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effects on levels of financial support for farming from the public purse of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review. [21647]

Mr Paice: As the vast majority of the over £3 billion of payments made each year to UK farmers are direct payments made under Pillar 1 of the EU common agriculture policy, we do not anticipate that the spending review will have a significant effect on levels of financial support for farming. Expenditure on the Rural Development Programme for England will be maintained over the spending review period.

Common Agricultural Policy

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent progress has been made in negotiations on reform of the common agricultural policy; and if she will make a statement. [21655]

Mrs Spelman: The UK is committed to ambitious reform of the common agricultural policy (CAP) that delivers good value for farmers, taxpayers, consumers and the environment. A future CAP must enable a sustainable, thriving and competitive EU agriculture and food sector that is able to rise to the challenges and opportunities of the future. Negotiations on CAP will begin formally in the context of a Communication which we expect to be published by the Commission in November.

Common Fisheries Policy

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what recent assessment she has made of progress on reform of the Common Fisheries Policy; and if she will make a statement. [21659]

Richard Benyon: The EU Commission's 2009 Green Paper provides a compelling case for radical reform of the current common fisheries policy: changes that simplify and decentralise fisheries management, enabling those closest to fisheries to plan for the long term, and giving fishermen greater incentive to fish sustainably. We expect the Commission to publish draft proposals next spring.

We are working with other member states, and interested parties, to build support for reform ahead of negotiations next year.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what mechanisms are in place to ensure that her Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20693]

Richard Benyon: The Department is a contributor to the regional development agency single pot. Population data were used as a factor shaping funding allocations to RDAs following spending review 2007 and before. Allocations to RDAs following the conclusion of spending review 2010 will be determined shortly but are likely to be based on the levels of legal commitment and anticipated closure costs.

Flood Control: Finance

Chris Evans: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what assessment she has made of the effect of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on her Department's budget for flood defences in each year from 2011-12 to 2014-15. [21642]

Richard Benyon: By March 2015, we will have spent at least £2.1 billion on flood and coastal erosion risk management, and as a result expect to deliver better levels of protection for around 145,000 households.

Forests: Finance

Mary Creagh: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs whether the proposed £100 million funding to international forestry projects announced at the UN Biodiversity conference in Nagoya is to be paid in addition to the commitment made to such projects after the 2009 Copenhagen climate change conference. [21498]

Mr Paice *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* The spending review provides £2.9 billion of international climate finance (called the International Climate Fund) over the spending review period. This fully funds, and goes beyond, the £1.5 billion commitment made by the previous Government at Copenhagen for the 'fast start' period (2010-12).

The ICF will include money for reducing deforestation, building on the £300 million announced for that purpose at Copenhagen. Detailed allocations of the ICF have yet to be finalised, but will include the £100 million for DEFRA, which goes beyond the Copenhagen Commitment, covering the period to 2014-15.

The ICF is part of the UK's commitment to increase its overseas development assistance to 0.7% of Gross National Income by 2013.

Landfill

Graham Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on the likely effects of the outcome of the comprehensive spending review on the funding available to reduce the amount of waste going to landfill. [21663]

Mrs Spelman: We have worked closely with the Department for Communities and Local Government to understand cost pressures on local authority waste management over the spending review period and have taken these into account in the overall local government settlement.

We have significantly increased financial flexibility which will free local authorities to allocate resources to meet their priorities and make continued efficiency savings, while continuing to deliver our overall environmental goals for waste management.

TRANSPORT

Aviation: China

Mark Hendrick: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the Government's programmes to increase trade and tourism between the UK and China of the 100% increase in air passenger duty to come into force on 1 November 2010. [21188]

Justine Greening: I have been asked to reply.

The increases in air passenger duty that took effect on 1 November were set and legislated by the previous Government. The increase in tax on a flight from London to Beijing is around 5% of the typical economy class return ticket price.

The coalition Government believes that trade and tourism are hugely beneficial to both the UK and China.

Thameslink: Government Assistance

Richard Fuller: To ask the Secretary of State for Transport if he will continue his Department's subsidy for Thameslink users who are required to use Transport for London services to reach Moorgate station. [21363]

Mrs Villiers: Following the closure of the Farringdon-Moorgate branch on 22 March 2009 as part of the Thameslink Programme, through fares to Moorgate were protected for two years from this date. This commitment therefore ends on 21 March 2011.

BUSINESS, INNOVATION AND SKILLS

Broadband: Schools

Anne Marie Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he has had discussions with the Secretary of State for Education on ensuring that schools have access to high speed broadband services. [21391]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Business Innovation and Skills has not had recent discussions with the Secretary of State for Education on ensuring that schools have access to high speed broadband services. Connectivity for schools is the responsibility of Department for Education. Virtually all schools have broadband connectivity already.

Chinese Paper Lanterns

Tim Farron: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills if he will bring forward proposals to regulate the sale and use of Chinese paper lanterns. [21165]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* We have received no recent representations specifically concerning the safety instructions on sky lanterns.

However, BIS and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are aware of the broader safety concerns with these products. In August, BIS wrote to local authority trading standards services, asking them to make importers aware that some sky lanterns lacked full instructions, and encouraging them to get manufacturers to address this problem.

Debt Management: Licensing

Ian Mearns: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many actions the Office of Fair Trading has taken to impose requirements or refuse or revoke licenses held or applied for by debt management businesses under its powers under the Consumer Credit Act 1974 in 2010 to date. [22015]

Mr Davey: This year to date the OFT has imposed requirements on three licensees engaged in debt management activities, revoked one licence held by a licensee engaged in debt management activities and refused to grant a licence to one applicant that proposed to engage in debt management activities. The OFT has also made a determination to revoke the licence of one other licensee engaged in debt management activities, which is subject to an appeal to the First Tier Tribunal.

Adjudicators acting on behalf of the OFT also made three determinations favourable to the trader, which resulted in two licensees engaged in debt management activities being permitted to continue to retain their licences and one to be granted a licence. During the adjudication process one licensee engaged in debt management activities surrendered its licence and one applicant for a licence withdrew its application. One further minded to notice is yet to be determined. The OFT has also warned 63 traders about unlicensed trading or failing to adhere to the Debt Management Guidance.

The primary focus this year has been the OFT's review of compliance with its Debt Management Guidance, which was published on 28 September 2010, and subsequent enforcement action (additional to that detailed above) to warn 129 debt management firms about non-compliant business practices identified during the review. The firms were instructed to produce independently audited evidence confirming action that they have taken to address the identified areas of non-compliance by mid-December 2010. Of the 129 firms, 22 have already surrendered their licences, 92 firms have agreed to comply and the OFT has initiated revocation action against 15 traders, but this may well increase.

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister in his Department in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21801]

Mr Davey: There has been no spend on hospitality for events hosted by BIS Ministers during this period The following amounts refer only to costs for refreshments at meetings.

(a) September 2010: £38.84 in total.

(b) October 2010: £0.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what recent discussions he has had with the European Commission on the administration of European Regional Development Funding bidding rounds following the closure of regional development agencies; and if he will make a statement. [22086]

Mr Prisk: The Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills has had no recent discussions with the European Commission on the administration of European regional development. However, I met with EU Regional Commissioner Johannes Hahn on 28 September to discuss the closure of the regional development agencies and the creation of local enterprise partnerships. The new delivery structure for the European regional development fund in England is planned to be announced at Budget 2011.

Fossil Fuels: Export Credit Guarantees

Zac Goldsmith: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills pursuant to the answer of 22 June 2010, *Official Report*, column 190W, on fossil fuels: export credits guarantees, what definition of dirty fossil-fuel energy production his Department uses. [4580]

Mr Davey: ECGD acts in accordance with the OECD Revised Council Recommendation on Common Approaches on the Environment and Officially Supported Export Credits (the Common Approaches) regarding the potential environmental impacts of projects. The Common Approaches states that:

> "Projects are expected to meet the international standards against which they have been benchmarked where these are more stringent than host country standards."

For new coal-fired power generation projects this would mean compliance with the World Bank Group's Environmental, Health and Safety Guidelines for Thermal Power Plants. These EHS Guidelines require emissions to be abated to below set numeric limits for particulate matter, sulphur dioxide and nitrogen oxides. They also provide data on typical carbon dioxide emissions for various combustion technologies/equipment.

The Common Approaches is currently under review by the OECD Export Credits Group and the UK is exploring with other countries the opportunity for incorporating numeric emissions limits for carbon dioxide.

Green Investment Bank

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what legal framework he plans to establish to govern the operations of the proposed Green Investment Bank. [22105]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank's legislative requirements, if any, will depend on the nature of its final design. The Government aim to conduct further market testing and to complete their design work by spring 2011.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the total cost to the public purse of establishing the proposed Green Investment Bank. [22107]

Mr Prisk: The Green Investment Bank (GIB) will be initially capitalised with £1 billion of funding allocated from departmental budgets together with additional significant proceeds from the sale of Government-owned assets.

Government will also incur costs in setting up the GIB, and will provide further information on the quantum of these costs in due course.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills when he expects to make a decision on the location of the headquarters of the proposed Green Investment Bank. [22108]

Mr Prisk: Decisions on the location of the Green Investment Bank will be taken in due course. Its final design will be subject to the Government's tests of effectiveness, affordability and transparency. However, we are not anticipating the creation of a large institution with high overheads.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what mechanism he plans to put in place to provide for appointments to the board of the proposed Green Investment Bank. [22109]

Mr Prisk: Governance arrangements will depend on decisions around the design of the Green Investment Bank.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills which *(a)* public and *(b)* private bodies he expects to contribute funding to projects through the proposed Green Investment Bank. [22110]

Mr Prisk: I refer the hon. Member to the Chancellor's spending review statement of 20 October.

As my right hon. Friend the Chancellor of the Exchequer had announced, we will be funding the Green Investment Bank from £1 billion of departmental budgets, as well as from additional significant proceeds from Government's asset sales.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what discussions his Department had with the devolved administrations prior to his announcement of proposals to establish a Green Investment Bank. [22111]

Mr Prisk: We are looking to create a Green Investment Bank with powers to invest across the UK. We will engage widely, including with the devolved administrations, as we undertake detailed market testing and design work.

Mr Weir: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills whether he commissioned advice from outside his Department when developing proposals for the Green Investment Bank. [22112]

Mr Prisk: We have worked closely with other Government Departments on the development of these proposals, including the Department for Energy and Climate Change, Department of Environment, Food and Rural Affairs, HM Treasury, Department for Transport, Department of Communities and Local Government, Cabinet Office and Infrastructure UK.

Higher Education: Admissions

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how many and what proportion of *(a)* women and *(b)* men are studying undergraduate courses in (i) humanities, arts and social science subjects and (ii) science, technology, engineering and mathematics subjects at universities in England. [20964]

Mr Willetts: The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) is shown in the table. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

Humanities, arts and social sciences covers the following subject groups: Social Sciences, Law, Business and Administrative Studies, Mass Communications and Documentation, Languages, Historical and Philosophical Studies, Creative Arts and Design, Education and Combined subjects.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics covers the following subject groups: Medicine and Dentistry, Subjects Allied to Medicine, Biological Sciences, Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Related Subjects, Physical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Architecture, Building and Planning.

Undergraduate enrolments by gender and subject of study: English higher education institutions, academic year 2008/09

	Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences[1]		*Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics*[2]	
Gender	*Number*	*Percentage*	*Number*	*Percentage*
Female	558,230	62	340,990	38
Male	353,665	54	303,640	46

[1] Covers the following subject groups: Social Sciences, Law, Business and Administrative Studies, Mass Communications and Documentation, Languages, Historical and Philosophical Studies, Creative Arts and Design, Education and Combined subjects.

[2] Covers the following subject groups: Medicine and Dentistry, subjects allied to Medicine, Biological Sciences, Veterinary Science, Agriculture and Related Subjects, Physical Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Computer Science, Engineering and Technology, Architecture, Building and Planning.

Note:

Figures are based on a HESA standard registration population and have been rounded to the nearest five.

Source:

Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA)

Local Enterprise Partnerships: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills (1) what estimate he has made of the funding to be made available to local enterprise partnerships in each of the next three years; [22462]

(2) what potential sources of funding he has identified for local enterprise partnerships other than the Regional Growth Fund. [22463]

Mr Prisk: The availability of funding to support economic growth, including through local enterprise partnerships, is covered in the White Paper on Local Growth. No funding is expected to be allocated specifically for local enterprise partnerships.

Newton Scholarship Programme

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future status of the Newton Scholarship Programme; and if he will make a statement. [21212]

Mr Willetts: On 17 June the Chief Secretary to the Treasury announced that a number of unfunded projects would be cancelled or suspended. This included the Newton Scholarships, on which any future decision will now be taken during the detailed allocation process following the recent spending review settlement.

Radio Frequencies

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills in which calendar year he expects the 800 and 2.6 spectrum auctions to take place. [21868]

Mr Vaizey: Ofcom will be responsible for the auctioning of this spectrum and they are required to go through a process to do so. I would hope that this process might be concluded by the end of 2011, but it is possible that it could fall into the first half of 2012.

Research Councils

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills how much his Department allocated to each research council in each year since 2005. [21214]

Mr Willetts: The allocations to each research council in each year since 2005 are set out in the following publications:

Science Budget Allocations 2005/06 to 2007/08—published in May 2005 by the DTI.

The Allocations of the Science Budget 2008/09 to 2010/11—published in December 2007 by DIUS.

Small Businesses: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has to support small and medium-sized enterprises in Maidstone and the Weald constituency. [21489]

Mr Prisk: I am pleased to be able to report a number of measures which are being undertaken with the purpose of stimulating growth which are particularly targeting support for small and medium sized enterprises.

The Government will provide highly focused support to SMEs through a renewed and streamlined portfolio of business improvement products to be launched by this Department in April 2011.

As the RDAs are decommissioned I will introduce a new and flexible delivery system comprising a national website, a national contact centre and access to mentors. I also intend to establish a network of Growth Hubs in England to support those businesses with high growth potential.

We are establishing Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) as set out in the White Paper. Maidstone and the Weald will be covered by a new LEP for Kent, Greater Essex and East Sussex. This will involve local business and civic leaders working together to drive economic growth and create new jobs in their communities.

In addition, the Government will commit an extra £200 million to Enterprise Capital Funds which enable firms to sell debt in exchange for a stake in the business.

I also will be working towards removing any qualification barriers that prevent small firms from accessing Government contracts.

Students: Kent

Mrs Grant: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what estimate he has made of the number of students educated in Maidstone and the Weald constituency who attended university in the last 12 months. [21488]

Mr Willetts: Figures for higher education entrants who were educated in Maidstone and the Weald are not available. As an alternative, figures for entrants to higher education (HE) who were resident in Maidstone and the Weald have been provided as an alternative.

The latest available information from the Higher Education Statistics Agency (HESA) relates to the 2008/09 academic year. Figures for the 2009/10 academic year will be available in January 2011.

In the 2008/09 academic year, there were 1,190 undergraduate entrants to UK higher education institutions who were resident in Maidstone and the Weald. The Department has recently received updated parliamentary constituency data therefore figures may not match those previously published. Figures for entrants to HE level courses at further education colleges are not available by parliamentary constituency, and are therefore excluded.

University Enterprise Capital Fund

Gordon Banks: To ask the Secretary of State for Business, Innovation and Skills what plans he has for the future status of the University Enterprise Capital Fund; and if he will make a statement. [21213]

Mr Willetts: The Government are committed to the continuance of the Enterprise Capital Fund programme that supports investments for the highest growth potential small businesses in the 'equity gap'. The spending review settlement will allow us to commit a further £200 million to new Enterprise Capital Funds over the coming four years. The Government's expert small business investment arm, Capital for Enterprise Ltd, have a pipeline of potential new Enterprise Capital Funds with whom they are in discussion and they anticipate the first of these to be investing early in the new year. There are a number of potential university focussed propositions among that pipeline which will be considered as they come to fruition.

SCOTLAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21789]

David Mundell: Scotland Office expenditure on hospitality for events hosted by each Minister is as follows:

£

	September	*October*
The Secretary of State for Scotland	22	384.12
The Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State for Scotland	0	37.50

All expenditure incurred is in accordance with the principles of Managing Public Money and the Treasury handbook on Regularity and Propriety.

Departmental Reviews

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what departmental policy reviews his Department has undertaken since 6 May 2010; on what date each such review *(a)* was announced and *(b)* is expected to publish its findings; what estimate he has made of the cost of each such review; who has been appointed to lead each such review; to what remuneration each review leader is entitled; how many (i) full-time equivalent civil servants and (ii) seconded staff are working on each such review; from which organisations such staff have been seconded; and how much on average such seconded staff will be paid for their work on the review. [21876]

David Mundell: The Scotland Office has not undertaken any such departmental policy reviews since 6 May 2010.

Departmental Travel

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what estimate his Department has made of its expenditure on travel undertaken by *(a)* him and *(b)* each other Minister in his Department in (i) September and (ii) October 2010. [21853]

David Mundell: Scotland Office estimated expenditure on travel undertaken by Ministers in September and October 2010 is as follows:

		£
	September	*October*
The Secretary of State for Scotland	719.72	894.85
The Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Scotland	Nil	601.59

All ministerial travel is undertaken fully in accordance with the rules set out in the Ministerial Code and Travel by Ministers.

Welfare State: Reform

Graeme Morrice: To ask the Secretary of State for Scotland what assessment he has made of the likely effects on people in Scotland of the Government's proposed reductions in welfare expenditure. [22074]

Michael Moore: The Government's welfare reforms aim to create a system that supports those who need it, helps people back into work and makes work pay. Details have been laid out in the comprehensive spending review and more information will follow as the Government develop their Work programme.

CABINET OFFICE

Central Office of Information: Redundancy

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Minister for the Cabinet Office (1) how many applications the Central Office of Information received for voluntary redundancy in the last two months; [20602]

(2) what consultation he has undertaken with trade unions on procedures for making compulsory redundancies in the Central Office of Information. [20603]

Mr Maude: I have asked the chief executive of the COI to write to the hon. Member.

Letter from Mark Lund, dated 1 November 2010:

As Chief Executive of the Central Office of Information (COI), I have been asked to reply to your Parliamentary Question 020602/3 regarding the compulsory redundancy scheme, which was mitigated by the voluntary applications recently undertaken by COI.

236 applications for voluntary redundancy were received in September and October 2010.

COI is not aware however of any consultation that has taken place between the Minister for the Cabinet Office and the trade unions regarding this compulsory redundancy scheme.

NORTHERN IRELAND

Departmental Official Hospitality

Ian Austin: To ask the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland how much his Department spent on hospitality for events hosted by each of its Ministers in *(a)* September and *(b)* October 2010. [21787]

Mr Paterson: The total amount spent was as follows:

September: £1,283.49

October: £1,018.03.

WALES

Unemployment

Dr Francis: To ask the Secretary of State for Wales what discussions she has had with the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions on transport for unemployed people seeking work in remote rural and valley areas in Wales; and if she will make a statement. [20053]

Mr David Jones: My right hon. Friend has meetings with Ministers in the Department for Work and Pensions about a range of issues relevant to Wales.

It is an integral part of the role of advisers in Jobcentre Plus to take account of local transport issues when advising unemployed people seeking work on the options available. All claimants should be willing to take employment within a reasonable travel to work area. The local travel to work area is determined by each individual Jobcentre, taking into account the availability of local transport facilities.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Attorney-General (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in the settlement letter for the Law Officers' Departments in respect of the Comprehensive Spending Review; [21505]

(2) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* the Law Officers' Departments and *(b)* their non-departmental public bodies; [21506]

(3) what estimate he has made of the cost to the Law Officers' Departments of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21507]

The Solicitor-General: All pressures on Departments' budgets were taken into account as part of the spending review and settlements were allocated accordingly. The full costs of any redundancies will be met from within the Law Officers' Departments' spending review resource DEL settlement. That settlement covers all of the departments for which the Attorney-General is responsible—namely, the Crown Prosecution Service (CPS), the Serious Fraud Office (SFO), the Treasury Solicitor's Department, HM Crown Prosecution Service Inspectorate, the Attorney-General's Office and the National Fraud Authority.

Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within the Law Officers' Departments' spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. The Crown Prosecution Service—which represents the most significant share of the Law Officers' Departments' overall budget—has already set out plans to reduce numbers in its headquarters directorates by 50%, and this process has already begun. These reductions are expected to be substantially met by natural wastage but there could be a small number of voluntary redundancies. However, detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required overall—and the associated costs—have yet to be finalised.

Human Trafficking: Prosecutions

Mr Bone: To ask the Attorney-General in how many prosecutions undertaken by the Crown Prosecution Service *(a)* a person was charged with offences related to human trafficking and *(b)* such charges were reduced to lesser charges in each of the last five years. [21736]

The Solicitor-General: The Crown Prosecution Service's records show that, in the last five years, the following prosecutions have been brought on charges under sections 57, 58 and 59 of the Sexual Offences Act 2003, alleging trafficking for the purposes of sexual exploitation and section 4 of the Asylum and Immigration (Treatment of Claimants) Act 2004, alleging trafficking for other exploitative purposes:

	Number of prosecutions
2005-06	18
2006-07	40
2007-08	90
2008-09	124
2009-10	121
2010-11	[1]74

[1] April to September 2010 only

The data relate only to the number of charged offences that reached first hearing in the magistrates courts.

The CPS holds no records of the number of offences that were subsequently reduced to lesser charges during this period.

TREASURY

Community Investment Tax Relief

Dr Thérèse Coffey: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether he plans to bring forward proposals to extend access to community investment tax relief; and if he will make a statement. [21382]

Mr Gauke: Community investment tax relief (CITR) is an approved state aid, with the period of approval running from 2002 to 2012. It has raised funds which have been lent to businesses in or serving disadvantaged areas. As CITR nears the end of its current state aid approval, the Government will review the operation of the scheme and will announce its intentions for the future at the appropriate time.

Crown Lands and Estates: Wind Power

Huw Irranca-Davies: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer if he will bring forward proposals to cap payments made by the Crown Estate to the Royal Family in respect of the development of wind farms for the purposes of allocating additional revenue to the *(a)* Green Investment Bank and *(b)* New Green Deal Fund. [21285]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor's statement of 20 October set out that the future payments to the Royal Household will be voted in the Treasury estimate, not made direct by the Crown Estate. Primary legislation to give effect to this decision will be brought forward and debated in due course.

Excise Duties: Fuels

Mr MacNeil: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer whether his proposals to pilot a rural fuel discount scheme will include the Isle of Skye. [22053]

Justine Greening: I refer the hon. Member to the answer given to the hon. Member for North Ayrshire and Arran (Katy Clark) on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 809W and the hon. Member on 1 November 2010, *Official Report*, columns 663-64W.

Personal Income

John McDonnell: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* millionaires and *(b)* billionaires resident in the UK in each year since 2000; how many people were taxed on the basis of incomes of over £1 million a year before allowances on the latest date for which figures are available; how many were so taxed in each of the last 10 years; and what estimate he has made of the tax revenue generated from those so taxed in each year. [21106]

Mr Gauke: Estimates of the number of millionaires in the UK by year are given in the following table. Data beyond 2005 are not available due to data quality problems. HMRC is reviewing data in this area, with a view to publishing figures for subsequent years once the quality issues have been resolved.

	Number of millionaires (thousand)
2000	220
2001	220
2002	250
2003	220
2004	n/a
2005	390

n/a = not available

The latest estimate (2005) is published in the HMRC Personal Wealth National Statistics Table 13.5:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal_wealth/13-5-table-2005.xls

An estimate of the number of billionaires is not available.

Information on the number of taxpayers with income, subject to income tax, in excess of £1 million for 2007-08 to 2010-11 can be found on the income tax statistics and distribution table 2.5 'Income tax liabilities, by income range' published on HMRC's website:

http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/income_tax/table2-5.pdf

Information for earlier years is shown in the following table.

Taxpayers with income, subject to income tax, in excess of £1 million

	Number of taxpayers (thousand)	Total tax liability (£ million)
2000-01	6	4,210
2001-02	5	3,770
2002-03	4	3,160
2003-04	5	3,440
2004-05	6	4,610
2005-06	9	6,590
2006-07	11	8,580

Source:

Based on the Survey of Personal Incomes (SPI)

Public Expenditure

Dr Pugh: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what information his Department holds on the extent to which each Department has achieved the annual real reduction in administration expenditure agreed with his Department in the 2007 comprehensive spending review. [17986]

Danny Alexander: Administration budget outturn from 2004-05 to 2008-09, estimated 2009-10 outturn and 2010-11 plans are published in Table 1.5 in Public Expenditure Statistical Analyses (PESA) 2010, available on the Treasury website.

The comprehensive spending review 2007 committed to reduce administration budgets by 5% a year in real terms across Departments.

PESA shows overall annual real reductions in administration budgets of 5% in 2007-08, 3% in 2008-09, 0% in 2009-10 and 6% in 2010-11. Excluding reductions of £356 million in administration budgets made as part of the £6.2 billion in year cuts, plans indicated administration budget real reductions in 2010-11 of 4%.

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer on what assumption regarding gross domestic product his forecast of deficit as a proportion of GDP contained in the comprehensive spending review is based. [21871]

Justine Greening: The Chancellor has established the independent Office for Budget Responsibility (OBR) to produce the official forecasts of the economy and the public finances.

The forecast of gross domestic product and the forecast of the deficit (including as a proportion of GDP) contained within the spending review document are the same forecasts as the independent OBR produced for the Government for the Budget 2010 in June.

As the Chancellor has announced, the OBR will produce a new official forecast on 29 November.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what methodology his Department uses to calculate its estimate of the annual sum lost through fraud in the welfare system. [22079]

Justine Greening: The Government's estimates of fraud and error levels in benefits and tax credits are based on survey evidence. Full details of the methodologies are published on the DWP and HMRC websites, alongside the most recent figures.

Tax Rates and Bands: South East

Amber Rudd: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer how many households with two working individuals in *(a)* the South East and *(b)* Hastings and Rye constituency have a combined income of over (i) £50,000, (ii) £60,000 and (iii) £70,000. [20735]

Chris Grayling: I have been asked to reply.

In 2008-09 the number of households in *(a)* the south-east containing two working adults with a total household income of over (i) £50,000 per annum was 0.7 million (ii) £60,000 per annum was 0.5 million and (iii) £70,000 per annum was 0.3 million.

Estimates are based on survey data, and only allow for breakdowns to Government office region level, so information for Hastings and Rye is not available.

Notes:

1. The Family Resources Survey is a nationally representative sample of approximately 26,000 households.
2. Data for 2008-09 were collected between April 2008 and March 2009.
3. The figures are based on a sample of households which have been adjusted for non-response using multi-purpose grossing factors which align the Family Resources Survey to Government office region population by age and sex. Estimates are subject to sampling error and remaining non-response error.
4. Numbers have been rounded to the nearest 100,000 households.
5. Work status is based on self-reporting by the respondent to the survey.

Source:

The Family Resources Survey 2008-09.

Working Tax Credit

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Chancellor of the Exchequer what the maximum monetary value of each element of the working tax credit will be if the proposals contained in both the June 2010 Budget and the 2010 Spending Review *(a)* are and *(b)* are not implemented in 2014-15. [19833]

Justine Greening: The Budget and spending review made reforms to the tax credit system to tackle the deficit in a fair way to ensure that tax credits are targeted at those who need them most.

The following table shows the monetary value of each element of the working tax credit, based on current projections of CPI.

£

WTC elements	*2014-15 after 2010 June Budget and 2010 spending review changes implemented*	*2014-15 if 2010 June Budget and 2010 spending review changes not implemented*
Basic element	2.120	2.180
Second adult element	2,085	2.150
Lone parent element	2,085	2.150
30 hour element	880	905
Disability element	2,830	2,915
Severe disability element	1,210	1,245
50 plus element (16-30 hours)	0	1,505
50 plus element (30 hours)	0	2,225

To ensure support is better targeted at low-income families with children, the Government have recycled some welfare savings into the child tax credit. The child element of the child tax credit will increase by £180 above indexation in 2011-12 and £110 above indexation in 2012-13. These steps have been taken to ensure that there is no measurable impact on child poverty from all modelled Budget and spending review changes to 2012-13.

CULTURE, MEDIA AND SPORT

BBC: Commonwealth Games 2014

Ian Murray: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport whether he has had discussions with the BBC Trust on the likely effects on his Department's contribution to the 2014 Commonwealth Games of the BBC's decision to withdraw as host broadcaster of that event. [21421]

Mr Vaizey *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* The Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport has not had any discussions with the BBC on this matter.

British Film Institute

Stephen Williams: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what information his Department holds on the British Film Institute's programming. [21223]

Mr Vaizey: The Department does not currently hold any information on the British Film Institute's programming.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20691]

John Penrose: The Department does not make regional funding allocations based on population data.

Film: Finance

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what estimate he has made of the monetary value of overseas earnings attributable to the film industry in *(a)* 2007, *(b)* 2008 and *(c)* 2009; and what proportion of GDP this represented in each year. [20913]

Mr Vaizey: Information on the monetary value of overseas earnings attributable to the UK film industry is not collated centrally. However, the UK Film Council Statistical Yearbook indicates that UK film grossed $3.3 billion in 2007, $4.2 billion in 2008 and $2 billion in 2009 in global box office receipts.

In 2009, the UK had the third-largest filmed entertainment market in the world, after the USA and Japan at $5.59 billion. This includes box office, DVD home rentals and online downloads, though not TV revenue.

The UK film industry exported £1.3 billion worth of services in 2008 (the latest year for which data are available) and £1 billion in 2007.

The Oxford Economics Report on the Economic Contribution of the Film industry (June 2010) estimates that the core UK film industry contributed around £1.6 billion to UK GDP in 2009.

Gambling

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport when he expects to conclude his consideration of the responses to his consultation on the Regulatory Future of Remote Gambling in Great Britain. [21122]

John Penrose: Since the consultation closed I have met a number of key stakeholders including the Gambling Commission, the Remote Gambling Association, representatives from Alderney and the Isle of Man, as well as representatives from faith and community groups.

I am examining the issues and identifying possible solutions and I hope to be able to make an announcement shortly.

Mr Lammy: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport how many and what proportion of category B2 fixed odds betting terminals were located in *(a)* bookmakers and *(b)* casinos on the latest date for which figures are available. [20598]

John Penrose: Almost all B2 gaming machines are made available in licensed betting premises rather than licensed casino premises.

The Gambling Commission advises, based on industry estimates, that as at 31 March 2009 there were an estimated 27,500 B2 gaming machines available in Great Britain.

Horse Racing: Betting

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* the Horseracing Levy Board and *(b)* the bookmaking betting industry on the collection base in future levy schemes. [21120]

John Penrose: I have met representatives of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, including the racing and bookmaking industries, to discuss the Levy and seek suggestions about how it might be improved or, if possible, suitably replaced.

The Government recently announced their intention to remove the Secretary of State's role of determining the Levy scheme when the parties are unable to reach agreement. This will require changes to primary legislation and will not have effect until Parliament has approved such changes. We will be discussing the options with the Levy Board and the racing and betting industries with a view to ensuring the funding for racing is fair, and collected from as broad a base as possible.

Miss McIntosh: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what assessment he has made of the economic and cultural effects of a reduction in the fiftieth Horserace Betting Levy. [21121]

John Penrose: It is disappointing that the Secretary of State will be required to determine the 50th Horserace Betting Levy Scheme after the parties failed to reach agreement by the deadline of 31 October. The Secretary of State will make his determination in due course on the basis of advice from the Minister for Sport and the Olympics. This will include consideration of all relevant issues.

Music

Mike Weatherley: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent steps his Department has taken to encourage the performance of live music. [20912]

John Penrose: The Department is currently considering how best to deliver the coalition agreement to cut red tape and encourage the performance of more live music, while ensuring that appropriate protection for local communities continues. We have had discussions with representatives from the music industry, the Local Government Association and the police among others and will continue to do so in our quest for consensus on this issue.

Radio: Digital Broadcasting

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport what recent discussions he has had on the future of local commercial radio stations after digital radio switchover. [21435]

Mr Vaizey: My officials and I are in regular discussions with representatives of the radio sector, including local commercial radio.

In addition, the Digital Radio Action Plan, published earlier this year, sets out a number of mechanisms to enable all parts of the radio sector to engage with and contribute to the development of the Digital Radio Switchover policy.

S4C: Wales

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 319-22WH, if he will take steps to ensure that S4C is structured *(a)* to ensure a diversity of programming from independent creative production companies across Wales and *(b)* to stimulate the Welsh economy. [22081]

Mr Vaizey: The details of S4C's partnership with the BBC are currently being developed. As I made clear in the Westminster Hall debate on S4C funding on 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 319-22WH, all of S4C's content budget will be spent on independent production, as it is now.

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the contribution of the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State of 20 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 319-22WH, if he will introduce a mechanism to secure at least the present level of funding allocated to S4C after 2016. [22082]

Mr Vaizey: No decisions have been made about the funding levels for S4C after 2014-15.

UK Film Council: Portland

Andrew Griffiths: To ask the Secretary of State for Culture, Olympics, Media and Sport pursuant to the answer to Question 15057, if he will direct the accounting officer of his Department to examine the appropriateness of the UK Film Council's contract with Portland. [17701][1]

Mr Vaizey: The Department has been assured by the UK Film Council (UKFC) that its contract with Portland was appropriate and consistent with Cabinet Office rules.

Portland has advised that it did not carry out any public affairs work for the UKFC, but did assist with media support, and for the purpose of transparency, listed the UKFC on its Advocate Policy and Public Affairs Consulting (APPC) client list.

In light of this clarification, there are no plans for the Department's Accounting Officer to investigate further the appropriateness of the UK Film Council's contract with Portland.

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[1] *[Official Report, 17 November 2010, Vol. 518, c. 7-8MC.]*

FOREIGN AND COMMONWEALTH OFFICE

Anti-Semitism

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with the Secretary General of the United Nations on the worldwide incidence of anti-Semitism; and if he will make a statement. [R] [22010]

Mr Jeremy Browne: My right hon. Friend the Foreign Secretary has not discussed the worldwide incidence of anti-Semitism with the Secretary-General of the United Nations recently. But combating all forms of racism, including anti-Semitism, is an important part of the Government's human rights agenda. Internationally, Ministers and officials support work to tackle anti-Semitism within the EU, the UN, the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe and other multilateral fora.

The Government support the All Party Parliamentary Group Against anti-Semitism and its work to promote efforts by governments and parliamentarians to combat anti-Semitism through implementing the London Declaration, adopted at the London Conference in February 2009.

The cross-Government working group to tackle anti-Semitism, made up of officials from across Whitehall and the chief executives of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Jewish Leadership Council and the Community Security Trust, is engaged in taking forward the provisions of the London Declaration. We look forward to the second Conference of the Inter-parliamentary Coalition for Combating Anti-Semitism in Ottawa in November as an opportunity for all participants to assess the progress that they have made around the world. Sir Andrew Burns, the UK Envoy for post-Holocaust issues, will be representing the Government at the conference.

Colombia

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received on the killing of Rodolfo Maya Aricape in Colombia. [21994]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Journalist and community leader Rodolfo Maya Aricape was murdered on 14 October 2010 in Caloto, Cauca Province. Mr Maya was secretary of the local indigenous council and worked on the Payumat radio station where he reported on conditions in his community. On 21 October the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights condemned the killing and called on the Colombian authorities to investigate the case and punish the perpetrators. Vice-president Angelino Garzón condemned the murder of Mr Maya and made a statement that the Colombian Government would not tolerate such violent acts and denounced the activities of illegal armed groups. He called on the authorities to promote democracy and fight organised crime. We will continue to monitor this case.

Colombia: Homicide

Jim McGovern: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the killing of three children near Tame in Arauca province, Colombia on 14 October 2010. [21742]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The Government wholeheartedly condemn this act of violence.

Our embassy in Bogota reports that on 14 October three children aged six, nine and 14 were allegedly tortured and murdered in Tame, Arauca Province. The children's bodies were found buried in two separate graves located 100 metres from a local military camp. The Colombian army issued a public statement to make clear that it does not tolerate such violent acts and asked the Attorney-General's office and the Public Ministry to investigate. The initial investigation found traces of blood on the rucksacks of 60 soldiers. On 2 November, seven military personnel, including two colonels, a major and a lieutenant were dismissed for failure to control troops in their command. The dismissed officers will now face charges relating to these murders in a civilian court. Our embassy in Bogota will continue to monitor the investigation and raise it with the Colombian Government should it prove necessary.

Colombia: Terrorism

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what reports he has received of alleged collaboration between members of the Colombian Army and paramilitary organisations in the area of San Jose de Apartado in north west Colombia. [21351]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We are aware of the vulnerability of the San Jose de Apartado community. An official from our embassy in Bogota visited San Jose de Apartado on 13 and 14 October and met 50 members of the community. They raised the alleged collaboration between the army and paramilitary groups. Officials at our embassy have subsequently raised these concerns in meetings with the Office of the Human Rights Ombudsman and a general in the local brigade of the Colombian army.

Colombia: Visits Abroad

Mr Davidson: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will consider the merits of revising his Department's travel advice to advise against travel to the provinces of Arauca and Narino. [21352]

Mr Jeremy Browne: Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) travel advice is based on objective assessments of the risks to British Nationals. Our travel advice on Colombia is kept under constant review and updated regularly. We base our advice on information received from our embassy in Bogota, members of the public and our local knowledge of the area. The safety of British travellers remains the FCO's main concern.

We advise against all but essential travel to the area of Arauca because of guerrilla activity and the presence there of the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). Most recently, on 28 October, two policemen were killed by FARC guerrillas.

We advise against all but essential travel to Narino department. The eastern and western areas of Narino are identified in the crime section of our Travel Advice as areas of potentially high levels of coca cultivation. Narino department has been affected by various FARC attacks in the last three months, most recently on 18 October in Roncadora where seven members of the military were killed. In addition, we strongly advise any travellers to the department of Narino to bear in mind the eruption of the Galeras Volcano on 25 August and recommend that they pay careful attention to all warnings issued by and to follow the advice of the local authorities.

Human Trafficking

Keith Vaz: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent discussions he has had with his overseas counterparts on steps to prevent human trafficking across international borders. [19475]

Damian Green: I have been asked to reply.

There have been no recent bilateral discussions with overseas counterparts on human trafficking. However, my right hon. Friend the Home Secretary and I met with the UNHCR high commissioner, Antonio Guterres, to discuss the issue.

Ilois: Resettlement

Jeremy Corbyn: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will revoke the Order in Council of 2004, which overturned the High Court judgment of 3 November 2000, in respect of the settlement of Chagossians to the Chagos Islands. [21774]

Mr Bellingham: The Government have no plans to revoke the British Indian Ocean Territory (Constitution) Order 2004 or the British Indian Ocean Territory (Immigration) Order 2004.

The decision of the House of Lords in R (Bancoult) *v.* Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs [2008] UKHL 61 upheld the validity of these Orders. This means that no person has the right of abode in the British Indian Ocean Territory or the right to enter the Territory unless authorised.

The Government are continuing to contest the case brought by the Chagos Islanders to the European Court of Human Rights for resettlement and further compensation.

The Government realise that the decision not to change the fundamental policy on resettlement, compensation and on the Marine Protected Area will be a disappointing one for the Chagossians and their supporters. However, we want to keep channels of communication open with the Chagossian community. I made this clear to Mr Olivier Bancoult of the Chagos Refugees Group when we met on 21 October.

Palestinians: Politics and Government

Guto Bebb: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of sustainability of Hamas control in Gaza. [21843]

Alistair Burt: Hamas is physically, militarily and economically in control of Gaza and is increasingly using its rule to impose a reactionary social agenda. Their only significant challenge comes from even more extreme groups.

We believe that the best way to lessen Hamas' control is through promoting the economic revitalisation of Gaza and pressing for significant progress in a negotiated solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

We have repeatedly called on Hamas to stop its interference with humanitarian operations in Gaza and to release Gilad Shalit.

We are also pressing the Israelis to ease restrictions on Gaza, enable the private sector to flourish, including through exports and the movement of people, and to press for a roll-over of the settlement moratorium which would allow direct talks to continue.

Turkmenistan: EU External Relations

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs if he will ensure that the EU Partnership and Co-operation Agreement with Turkmenistan is not ratified until greater protection for human rights and legal protections for religious minorities in that country are secured. [21690]

Mr Lidington: Turkmenistan's progress on human rights will form an important component of any UK decision to ratify the EU-Turkmenistan Partnership and Co-operation Agreement. Our priority is to support Turkmenistan in becoming a stable and prosperous partner for the UK and EU, and we stand ready to support their plans for democratic and wider reform.

Uganda: Politics and Government

Mr Mike Hancock: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what his assessment is of the effects of electoral violence in Uganda on the *(a)* humanitarian situation in Uganda and the Great Lakes Region, *(b)* African Union peacekeeping in Somalia, *(c)* war against the Lords Resistance Army in the Democratic Republic of Congo and the Central African Republic and *(d)* prospects for a peaceful referendum in Southern Sudan; and if he will make a statement. [20561]

Mr Bellingham: We assess that Uganda is playing a positive role in the region through its peacekeeping deployment to Somalia, progress on economic regional integration within the East Africa Community and co-operation with other countries affected by the Lord's Resistance Army.

We judge that peaceful elections in Uganda in February 2011 would support further constructive Ugandan engagement with its neighbours and regional partners. In addition, it would support the further development of the country and the further improvement of the humanitarian situation in the north. Of course, any violence around the electoral process could undermine these objectives. Therefore the UK is working with support key institutions in Uganda, including the Electoral Commission, Government and opposition parties and police force, to support elections that are as credible and peaceful as possible.

UN Women

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs pursuant to the answer of 26 October 2010, *Official Report,* column 257-8W, on

UN Women, whom the UK *(a)* nominated and *(b)* supported for the post of Head of UN Women. [21677]

Mr Jeremy Browne: During the negotiations to establish UN Women, the EU agreed that the first person to fill the Under Secretary-General post should be from a developing country, and that we should encourage developing countries to put forward their own candidates. Because of this, the UK did not nominate a candidate.

The appointment of the Under Secretary-General, like other Under Secretary-General positions within the UN Secretariat, is at the discretion of the Secretary-General. He did not approach member states for their views.

The UK fully supports the appointment of Michelle Bachelet as the Under Secretary-General to head UN Women. We look forward to working closely with her as she shapes UN Women's vision and workplan in the coming months.

Venezuela: Foreign Relations

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent assessment he has made of the state of UK-Venezuelan relations; and if he will make a statement. [21931]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We enjoy a productive working relationship with the Venezuelan Government and work closely in areas of mutual interest, including counter narcotics and commercial interests. The UK and Venezuela share goals in poverty reduction, fairer societies and the importance of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

The Home Office Minister for crime prevention the Under-Secretary of State, Home Office, my hon. Friend the Member for Old Bexley and Sidcup (James Brokenshire) met the Venezuelan Vice Foreign Minister Temir Porras on 1 October during his visit to Venezuela. He took the opportunity of this meeting to reiterate our shared responsibility with Venezuela on matters of immigration and the fight against drugs trafficking.

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what *(a)* treaties and *(b)* co-operation agreements exist between the UK and Venezuela; when each such agreement was signed; who the signatories were; when each such agreement will be reviewed; and if he will make a statement. [21933]

Mr Jeremy Browne: The information is not immediately available in the form requested. I shall write to my hon. Friend the Member for Southend West with the details he seeks shortly and will place a copy of the letter in the Library of the House.

West Papua: Human Rights

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Foreign and Commonwealth Affairs what recent reports he has received on the human rights situation of the people of West Papua. [21279]

Mr Jeremy Browne: We receive regular reports on the human rights situation in the Indonesian provinces of Papua and West Papua.

For example, we were concerned by the disturbing images in recently released video footage depicting serious abuse by the Indonesian security forces. We have raised our concerns with the Indonesian authorities and welcome their prompt announcement that there will be a full investigation and that those military officers found to be responsible will be held to account. We will keep in close contact with the Indonesian Government on this issue.

INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Departmental Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the comprehensive spending review. [21538]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: All pressures on the Department for International Development's (DFID's) budget were taken into account as part of the spending review and the settlement allocated accordingly. The full costs of redundancies will be met from within DFID's spending review resource DEL settlement.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development (1) what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review in respect of *(a)* his Department, *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies and *(c)* other public bodies which are dependent on his Department for funding; [21539]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21540]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: Determining optimal work force reforms in order to live within the Department for International Development's (DFID's) spending review resource DEL settlement will be an ongoing process. Detailed decisions regarding the number of redundancies that may be required have yet to be finalised.

Additionally, the total cost of any redundancies made over the SR period is wholly dependent on the awaited final structure of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme.

Philip Davies: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many staff of his Department have been offered enhanced early retirement packages in each of the last three years. [22033]

Mr Duncan: The number of staff in the Department for International Development (DFID) who were offered early retirement packages under the provisions of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme in each of the last three financial years is as follows.

Financial year	*Number of staff*
2007-08	48
2008-09	14
2009-10	28

Departmental Secondment

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development how many of his Department's staff are on secondment to UN Women; and whether he has plans for further such secondments. [21766]

Mr Duncan: The UK Government strongly support the establishment of the new United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, known as UN Women.

There are no staff from the Department for International Development (DFID) on secondment to UN Women. UN Women will become operational by January 2011 and is currently considering its staffing requirements. DFID is in close touch with the management team on any help they might need, but no decision has yet been taken on any secondments.

Developing Countries: Politics and Government

Mark Lazarowicz: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development pursuant to the answers of 26 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 292-93W, on developing countries: politics and government, how much and what proportion of the increase in official development assistance targeted at conflict affected and fragile states announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review will be drawn from the budget for *(a)* his Department, *(b)* the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, *(c)* the Ministry of Defence and *(d)* the Conflict Pool settlement. [21324]

Mr Andrew Mitchell: The proportion of UK Official Development Assistance (ODA) used to support fragile and conflict affected states and tackle the drivers of instability will rise from 22% in 2010/11 to 30% in 2014-15. This is expected to amount to £3.7 billion in 2014-15. The vast majority of this is expected to be funded from the Department for International Development's (DFID's) budget. The remainder will come from the Conflict Pool settlement, which is jointly managed by DFID, the Foreign and Commonwealth Office (FCO) and the Ministry of Defence (MOD) as well as from ODA managed by a range of Government Departments, including the FCO and MOD. My Department is in communication with other Government Departments to determine precise contributions from each and will continue to work with colleagues across Whitehall to ensure the target is achieved.

UN Women's Agency: Finance

Mr McCann: To ask the Secretary of State for International Development what financial contribution the Government plans to make to UN Women in the next four years. [21765]

Mr Duncan: I refer the hon. Member to my answer of 3 November 2010, *Official Report*, column 828W, on UN Women's Agency: Finance.

EDUCATION

Academies: Faith Schools

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether religious schools which become academies are entitled to retain selective admissions criteria. [17997]

Mr Gibb: Existing schools with a religious designation that convert to become academies will be able to retain their admission arrangements, including where those schools give priority to applicants on the basis of their faith. Any school converting, whether or not it has a faith designation, will be able to retain admission arrangements that select on the basis of ability or aptitude.

This reflects the underlying principle, secured through the Academies Act 2010, that schools convert to academies with the same characteristics they had prior to conversion.

Building Schools for the Future Programme: Bolton

Mr Crausby: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what criteria were used to determine which schools rebuilding programmes in Bolton would not go ahead under the Building Schools for the Future scheme. [15910]

Mr Gibb: On 5 July the Secretary of State announced a stop on expenditure on the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme until a more efficient use of resources has been determined. The criteria for determining which school projects within the programme are to continue were national. There were no criteria specific to Bolton.

BSF developments are being maintained for three groups of schools:

those in a local authority area's initial BSF scheme where Financial Close has been reached;

the first projects due to be taken forward in a local authority area where Financial Close has not been reached but where very significant work has been undertaken, to the point of appointing a preferred bidder at close of dialogue; and

some schools with planned projects subsequent to their authority's initial scheme—projects with outline business cases approved before 1 January 2010.

The following Bolton schools have had their BSF funding stopped as they do not fit into the three aforementioned categories: Bolton Muslim Girls School, Ladybridge High School, Little Lever Specialist Language College, Rumworth Special School, Sharples School, Smithills and Westhoughton High. Kearsley Academy's capital allocation will be determined after the comprehensive spending review as announced by the Secretary of State on the 6 August.

Children, Schools and Families Act 2010

Mr Amess: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the *(a)* prefix and *(b)* title is of each file on Clauses 11 to 14 of the Children, Schools and Families Bill of Session 2009-10 held by his Department; and if he will make a statement. [14256]

Mr Gibb: PSHE embraces a large number of topics including sex education, drugs and alcohol, financial capability, health and safety and work-related learning. The Department has files on all of these as well as on general PSHE policy and parliamentary business.

Departmental Internet

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the URL is of each website managed by *(a)* his Department and *(b)* each non-departmental public body for which his Department is responsible. [2365]

Michael Gove: The Department for Education is currently responsible for managing 11 websites. The URLs for these are shown at list A. A number of these were subsumed within the revised Department for Education website when it was launched last month.

The Department's NDPBs manage a total of 21 websites, and the URLs are shown at table B.

List A—Department URLs:

www.governornet.co.uk

www.need2know.co.uk

www.teachernet.gov.uk

www.standards.dfes.gov.uk

www.connexions-direct.com

www.dcsf.gov.uk

www.education.gov.uk

www.tre.ngfl.gov.uk

www.myguide.gov.uk

www.edubase.gov.uk

www.schoolsadjudicator.gov.uk

Table B

NDBP	*URLs*
The British Educational Communications and technology Agency	www.becta.org.uk
	www.evaluation.icttestbed.org.uk
	www.cc4g.net
The Qualifications and Curriculum Development Agency	www.qcda.org.uk
	www.wba.qca.org uk
	www.accreditedqualifications.org.uk
The Teaching and Development Agency	www.multiverse.ac.uk
	www.behaviour4learning.ac.uk
	www.ttrb.ac.uk
	www.tda.gov.uk
The School Food Trust	www.schoolfoodtrust.org.uk
The Children and Family Court Advisory Support Service	www.cafcass.gov.uk
National Council for School Leadership	http://matrix.ncsl.org.uk/
	www.nationalcollege.org.uk
The Children's Commissioner	www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk
The Children's Workforce Development Council	www.cwdcouncil.org.uk
Partnership for Schools	www.partnershipsforschools.org.uk
The Teachers TV Board of Governors	www.ttvboard.org
The Young People's Learning Agency	www.ypla.gov.uk
Ofsted	www.ofsted.gov.uk
Ofqual	www.ofqual.gov.uk

Departmental Public Expenditure

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what the nature was of the grant awarded under the terms of the contract between his Department and *(a)* the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and *(b)* the Youth Sport Trust; and whether the letting of these contracts was subject to the provisions of the Public Procurement Regulations 2006. [15958]

Mr Gibb: The grant awarded by the Department to SSAT for 2010-11 is £14,368,018 and is mainly to support the Specialist Schools and the Academies programmes. The grant awarded to YST for 2010-11 is £15,212,000 and is to support a range of PE and sports programmes. Grants are not subject to the 2006 Public Procurement Regulations.

Departmental Visits Abroad

David Simpson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education how much his Department spent on overseas visits for senior officials in the last 12 months for which figures are available. [18414]

Tim Loughton: The following figures represent the spend on air travel and hotel accommodation for Department for Education officials while on overseas visits during the past 12 months.

Overseas visits

	£
Air travel	
2010	
September	1,071.06
August	777.89
July	0
June	1,364.99
May	882.59
April	7,356.35
March	6,470.75
February	2,279.68
January	1,347.4
2009	
December	615.97
November	650.81
October	11,907
Total	34,724.49
Hotels	
2010	
September	0
August	0
July	266
June	1,575
May	186
April	3,216
March	500
February	0
January	80
2009	
December	0
November	1,051

Overseas visits

	£
October	2,639
Total	9,513

Education: Finance

Mr Robin Walker: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what account will be taken of the evidence gathered as part of the previous Government's consultation on education funding in *(a)* the consultation on the pupil premium and *(b)* future decisions on the wider funding formula. [16003]

Mr Gibb: We published our proposals for school funding in 2011-12, including the introduction of the pupil premium, on 26 July 2010. Those proposals took into account the evidence gathered as part of the previous Government's review of school funding. We plan minimal changes to the underlying system for 2011-12 in order to ensure the transparent introduction of the premium. We also made clear our longer term intention to bring in a simpler and more transparent funding system to help reduce the funding differences between similar schools in different areas. We will work with key partners to consider how best to bring this about and will take into account relevant evidence including that from the previous Government's review.

Free Schools

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Education (1) what assessment he made of the merits of allocating responsibility for the provision of advice to groups wishing to establish free schools to officials in his Department prior to taking the decision to allocate this responsibility to the New Schools Network; [15491]

(2) what role he had in the process of awarding his Department's contract to provide advice to groups wishing to establish free schools. [15492]

Mr Gibb: The Department is finalising a grant agreement (rather than a contract) with New Schools Network (NSN) to provide advice to groups wishing to establish free schools. Having taken advice from officials, we have agreed that NSN was ideally placed to undertake such activities.

The Department has given out similar grants in the past, such as to the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and the Youth Sport Trust.

Languages: Education

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what steps he is taking to encourage the teaching of modern languages. [18042]

Mr Gibb *[holding answer 19 October 2010]:* The Government believe that learning a language is important to the social and economic future of the country and to help children understand the world in which they live. We will be announcing more details about a review of the National Curriculum later this year. This review will consider the status of languages at both primary and secondary level. We plan to consult a wide range of academics, teachers and other interested parties to ensure that our core curriculum can compare with those of the highest performing countries in the world.

On 6 September, in a speech at Westminster Academy, the Secretary of State announced an English Baccalaureate, to include a modern or ancient language as one of the core academic subjects that children should learn at GCSE level, along with English, maths, science and a humanity subject.

Mental Illness

Jo Swinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what assessment he has made of the recommendations relating to his Department of the report by the Government Office for Science, Foresight on Mental Capital and Wellbeing; if he will ensure that his Department's policy development process takes account of psychological research into subjective well-being; and if he will make a statement. [18455]

Sarah Teather *[holding answer 21 October 2010]:* The Foresight Report "Mental Capital and Wellbeing: Making the Most of ourselves in the 21st century", published on 22 October 2008, contained many key messages around the needs of children which are important for this Department, including its conclusions and broad recommendations relating to child development and learning, children with learning difficulties, and those with mental health needs.

There is a breadth of work taking place across the Department for Education which will drive these priorities forward, including the SEN and Disability Green Paper. The Department is also working closely with the Home Office on the development of a new drug strategy, and the Department of Health on NHS reforms, a Public Health White Paper and a new mental health strategy. The Government will also be keen to reflect on the findings of some key, related work being carried out through the independent review of early intervention by the hon. Member for Nottingham North (Mr Allen) and Dame Claire Tickell's independent review of the Early Years Foundation Stage.

Primary Education: Finance

Chi Onwurah: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether his Department provides funds to primary schools in *(a)* deprived communities and *(b)* other areas to promote engagement with universities. [17983]

Mr Gibb: The Department does not provide funds to primary schools to promote engagement with universities.

Schools: Wolverhampton

Paul Uppal: To ask the Secretary of State for Education whether any schools in Wolverhampton South West constituency have applied to become an academy. [18004]

Mr Gibb: To date, no schools in Wolverhampton South West constituency have applied to become an academy, or expressed an interest in doing so.

The latest list of primary and secondary schools within England that have expressed an interest in academy status is available at:

http://www.education.gov.uk/schools/leadership/typesofschools/academies/a0061400/schools-registering-interest-or-submitting-an-application

Special Educational Needs

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what progress has been made in establishing an advisory group on the effect of the Academies Act 2010 on funding provision for children with low-incidence special educational needs; and what the names are of the members of the group. [15769]

Mr Gibb: DFE is reviewing how academies are funded from 2011-12 onwards to identify the scope for simplifying the funding process and as part of this, we will consider funding for SEN pupils. This includes consideration of the funding academies receive for functions previously undertaken by local authorities, and of the way in which funding is deducted from local authorities to take account of this. The School Funding Implementation Group, including both local authority and academy representation, is providing advice into this review.

The Department has established an advisory group to consider the process by which special schools may become academies, to identify any practical issues in this process, and to advise the Department as to how these may be resolved. The members of the group are as follows:

Heather Rockhold (Lauriston School)

Royston Halford (Hawkley Hall High School)

David Gregory (Fosse Way School)

Sue Bourne (The Avenue School)

Kay Bedford (Swiss Cottage School)

Malcolm Reeve (Columbus School)

Steve Roberts (St Vincent's School for Blind and Partially Sighted Children)

Toby Salt (Littlegreen and St. Anthony's special schools federation)

Sir Bob Balchin

Bob Freeman (ADCS nomination, Luton Borough Council)

Harriet Martin (LGA nomination, Luton Borough Council)

Claire Dorer (National Association of Independent Schools and Non-Maintained Special Schools)

Jolanta Lasota (TreeHouse).

Other representatives are invited to attend meetings of the advisory group as appropriate. The advisory group is chaired and supported by Department for Education officials.

Pat Glass: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what *(a)* monitoring and *(b)* assessment his Department has undertaken of the effect of (i) existing and (ii) new academies on education services for children with low-incidence special educational needs. [15772]

Mr Gibb: DfE is reviewing how academies are funded from 2011-12 onwards to identify the scope for simplifying the funding process and, as part of this, we will consider funding for SEN pupils. This includes consideration of the funding academies receive for functions previously undertaken by local authorities, and of the way in which funding is deducted from local authorities to take account of this. The School Funding Implementation Group, including both local authority and academy representation, is providing advice into this review.

The YPLA is responsible for monitoring and enforcing the terms of Academy Funding Agreements—which contain obligations in relation to the provision of services for academy pupils with SEN. The Model Funding Agreement has recently been strengthened to give the Secretary of State the power to intervene specifically in relation to the delivery of SEN obligations and the YPLA will, therefore, advise the Secretary of State of circumstances where that power should be used.

On 10 September the Minister of State for Children and Families invited views from everyone with an interest in services for children and young people with special educational needs or disabilities in England. All views and perspectives received will be considered as part of developing proposals for a Green Paper on SEN and disability to be published this autumn.

Teachers: Standards

Justin Tomlinson: To ask the Secretary of State for Education what plans he has to raise the standard of science and mathematics teaching; and if he will allocate funds for the purpose of raising the standard of such teaching in North Swindon constituency. [17674]

Mr Gibb: We have announced our intention to review the national curriculum to restore it to its original purpose—a core national entitlement organised around subject disciplines. We will consider the content of the mathematics and science curriculum as part of this process and will announce more details about this review later in the year. We will also set out our proposals for improving standards in mathematics and science in the White Paper later this year, and as part of the follow up to the comprehensive spending review. The Government are committed to recruiting more high quality graduates into teaching, and the forthcoming White Paper will also outline the Government's plans for ensuring the right supply of specialist teachers in physics, chemistry and mathematics, as well as improving the skills of those already in the classroom. In July this year, we announced an additional £4 million to expand the Teach First programme, which will support Teach First to increase the number and quality of applicants to the programme, including those from a mathematics and science background.

Funding for all schools from 2011-12 onwards, including in North Swindon, will be determined in the follow-up to the spending review.

WORK AND PENSIONS

Child Benefit

Julie Hilling: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will bring forward proposals to create a new form of National Insurance credit to assist stay-at-home parents who would have otherwise qualified for national insurance credits whilst receiving child benefit. [21684]

Steve Webb: I refer the hon. Member to the written answer I gave the hon. Member for Erith and Thamesmead (Teresa Pearce) on 19 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 643W.

Council Tax Benefits

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely effects of an increase in non-dependent deductions on the number of new households formed; and if he will make a statement. [21039]

Steve Webb: This information is not available.

Households are formed and stay together for a number of factors, including non-financial reasons, and the Department has not been able to estimate the impact that higher rates of non-dependant deductions would have on non-dependant mobility or household formation.

We shall publish an Equality Impact Assessment for the June Budget change to non-dependant deductions to accompany the relevant legislation when introduced in Parliament.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what impact assessment his Department prepared prior to the decision to transfer direct control of council tax benefit to local authorities. [21733]

Steve Webb: The Chancellor set out the overall impact on individuals of the benefit and tax credit changes announced in spending review 2010. The precise impacts of the localisation of council tax benefit will depend on the flexibilities given to local authorities and the choices made by them. The Government are working to develop the new arrangements and will publish the detailed impact assessment when legislation is introduced.

Ann McKechin: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what discussions he had with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities prior to his decision to transfer direct control of council tax benefit to local authorities. [21734]

Steve Webb: The need to reform housing benefit and council tax benefit was discussed with the associations (including COSLA) that represent local authorities as part of the consultation process on Supporting People into work: the next stage of Housing Benefit reform. The proposal announced in the spending review was not formally discussed with the associations but COSLA and the other associations will be given the opportunity to contribute their views as the new arrangements are developed.

Council Tax: Greater London

Rushanara Ali: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many people resident in *(a)* Bethnal Green and Bow and *(b)* Tower Hamlets were in receipt of council tax benefit on the latest date for which figures are available. [20882]

Steve Webb: The information is as follows:

(a) The information for Bethnal Green and Bow constituency is not available.

Notes:

1. From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed HB/CTB data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.
2. Council tax benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

3. At present geographic breakdowns are only available for local authorities and regions. However, an exercise is being undertaken to add other geographical areas to the data: this will include parliamentary constituencies.

(b) There were 34,740 council tax benefit recipients in Tower Hamlets local authority area in July 2010.

Notes:

1. Recipients are as at the second Thursday of the month.
2. Figures are rounded to the nearest 10.
3. Council tax benefit figures exclude any single adult rebate cases.
4. SHBE is a monthly electronic scan of claimant level data direct from local authority computer systems. It replaces quarterly aggregate clerical returns. The data are available monthly from November 2008 and July 2010 is the latest available.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract (SHBE).

Disability Living Allowance

Grahame M. Morris: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effect on those who live in residential care homes of his proposals to remove the mobility component of disability living allowance from such people; what representations he has received on his proposals; and if he will make a statement. [20981]

Maria Miller: People who live in state funded residential care homes will cease to be paid the mobility component of disability living allowance (DLA) after 28 days. While these residents will not be paid DLA, they will retain an underlying entitlement to the benefit and it will be reinstated if they leave the care home providing they continue to satisfy the conditions of entitlement. The planned implementation date is October 2012. The change will not apply to residents who meet the full costs of the care home themselves; they will continue to be paid any care or mobility components of disability living allowance they are entitled to. The change will affect around 60,000 people.

Local authority contracts with care homes cover services to meet all a resident's assessed needs, including any assessed mobility needs, so an individual's care support and mobility needs should be met by residential care providers from social care funding. This measure will remove an overlap of public funds while ensuring that resources continue to be targeted at disabled people with the greatest needs.

We have received representations in the form of parliamentary questions and correspondence since the measure was announced. The measure will be introduced as part of the forthcoming Welfare Reform Bill. In line with the Department's commitment to transparency, an equality impact assessment for Welfare Reform Bill measures such as this, will be published on DWP's website alongside the Bill in due course.

Disability Living Allowance: Medical Examinations

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how much his Department has paid in bonus or incentive payments to each company in delivering medical assessments for disability living allowance in the most recent 12 months for which records are available. [21367]

Maria Miller: Atos Healthcare are contracted to provide the Department with medical services including assessments in connection with disability living allowance. No bonus or incentive payments have been made in respect of the medical services provided by Atos Healthcare.

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many assessments for disability living allowance ATOS Healthcare carried out in the last 12 months; how many such assessments were appealed against; and how many such appeals were successful. [21369]

Maria Miller: The number of disability living allowance assessments carried out by Atos Healthcare in the period October 2009 to September 2010 was 46,312.

We are unable to say how many assessments were appealed against or how many such appeals were successful. DLA appeals can be made against all decisions and the management information system of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service does not go to the level of detail that would identify those appeals specifically related to such assessments.

Source:

Department for Work and Pensions Management Information Statistics.

Employment: Questionnaires

Helen Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with Ministerial colleagues on Government policy on the use of pre-employment health questionnaires. [20534]

Chris Grayling: It was a collective decision by the coalition Government to implement section 60 of the Equality Act 2010 from 1 October 2010, but there have been no recent discussions with ministerial colleagues on Government policy on the use of pre-employment questionnaires. Section 60 of the Equality Act 2010 places restrictions on when a person recruiting for work may make inquiries about an applicant's health or disability prior to the point of a job offer being made, or the applicant being placed in a pool of successful applicants to be offered a job when a vacancy arises.

Housing Benefit

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions (1) how many people will be affected by the removal of the one-bed rate for 25 to 35-year-olds in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority area, *(c)* constituency and *(d)* broad rental market area; [19858]

(2) how many and what proportion of recipients of local housing allowance (LHA) at the shared room rate pay rent in excess of their LHA payments; and what the average level of the excess is. [19864]

Steve Webb: We will publish a document on the impacts of the proposed changes to the shared room rate in due course. This will include information at the local authority level.

The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library. Based on this document, around 30% of housing benefit recipients subject to the shared room rate will lose their local housing allowance excess as their rents are below the local housing allowance rate.

Bob Russell: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what assessment he has made of the effects on the local economy of reductions in entitlement to housing benefit in each of the next four years; and if he will make a statement. [20171]

Steve Webb: On 23 July the Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12', which includes analysis at the local authority level, and a separate Equality Impact Assessment. A copy of the documents has been placed in the Library.

The Department will publish a full impact assessment for the 2011-12 changes to the local housing allowance arrangements when it lays the relevant legislation in November 2010.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the likely level of availability of *(a)* two, *(b)* three and *(c)* four bedroom properties to local housing allowance claimants in each local authority after the implementation of the proposed benefits cap and restriction of local housing allowance to the 30th percentile. [21040]

Steve Webb: The local housing allowance rates will be set at the 30th percentile of rents in each broad rental market area, ensuring that 30% of properties, for each property size, would be affordable under the local housing allowance arrangements.

The Department published a document on 'Impacts of Housing Benefit proposals: Changes to the Local Housing Allowance to be introduced in 2011-12' on 23 July, which includes a section on the impact of the housing benefit cap on the availability of accommodation for each broad rental market area. A copy of the document has been placed in the Library.

Mr Frank Field: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of tenants in the privately rented sector who receive housing benefit. [21740]

Steve Webb: My most recent estimate is that approximately 40% of tenants in the private rented sector receive housing benefit.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether his Department's impact assessment of changes to local housing allowance included in its analysis properties used by local authorities as temporary accommodation. [21834]

Steve Webb: The impact document published on 23 July 2010 did not include properties used by local authorities as temporary accommodation. Housing benefit subsidy for people in temporary accommodation is considered separately to mainstream local housing allowance rates and reviewed annually.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the proportion of private rentals in each broad market rental area which are in receipt of local housing allowance. [22093]

Steve Webb: My most recent estimate is that approximately 40% of tenants in the private rented sector receive housing benefit.

This is a national figure; reliable estimates at local level are not available.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what estimate he has made of the proportion of claimants of local housing allowance whose monthly allowance does not cover the cost of rental payments. [22095]

Steve Webb: In August 2009, 48% of those receiving housing benefit under the local housing allowance arrangements had a shortfall in their rent caused by the customer's contractual rent being higher than the appropriate local housing allowance rate.

Work is under way to update this information and we aim to include this in the publication on a two-year review of the local housing allowance due out later this year.

Housing Benefit: Employment

John Hemming: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions if he will exempt those recipients of housing benefit who are in employment from the proposed change in entitlement from the 50th percentile to the 30th percentile. [20624]

Steve Webb: We have no plans to introduce exemptions for specific groups when we change the basis on which local housing allowance rates are set. We have provided a substantial increase in the discretionary housing payments budget which will allow local authorities to give additional support where it is most needed.

Housing Benefit: Jobseeker's Allowance

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent estimate he has made of the number of housing benefit recipients who have also been receiving jobseeker's allowance for over *(a)* six and *(b)* 12 months. [20531]

Steve Webb: The information requested is not available.

From February 2007, DWP has been collecting more detailed housing benefit and council tax benefit data electronically from local authorities. Over time this will improve the accuracy, timeliness and level of detail available in the published statistics, as the information supplied is quality assured.

At present, the management information needed to estimate durations on housing benefit has not been sufficiently quality assured; and, while information is collected on the number of claimants in receipt of a passported benefit, which includes income-based jobseeker's allowance, the total number of jobseeker's allowance claimants receiving housing benefit is not available.

Housing benefit caseload and average weekly amounts are available at local authority area level and these are published on the Department's website at:

http://www.dwp.gov.uk/asd/hbctb.asp

Housing Benefit: Oxfordshire

Nicola Blackwood: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in each ward in Oxford West and Abingdon constituency were in receipt of housing benefit of more than £400 per week in the last period for which figures are available. [21054]

Steve Webb: The information is not available at the constituency level. At July 2010, our records show that in Cherwell, Oxford and the Vale of White Horse local authorities combined there were fewer than five households receiving housing benefit over £400 per week.

Source:

Single Housing Benefit Extract from July 2010. All figures have been rounded to the nearest 10 recipients.

Housing Benefit: Private Rented Housing

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many households in the private rented sector were in receipt of housing benefit or local housing allowance in each local authority area in England and Wales in each year since 2000-01. [20998]

Steve Webb: The information has been placed in the Library.

Mortgages: Government Assistance

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions for what reasons claimants of Support for Mortgage Interest were given fewer than six days notice before the implementation of the reduction in the level of payments under that scheme. [20028]

Steve Webb: The recent change in the standard interest rate used to calculate support for mortgage interest was announced in the emergency Budget on 22 June. The information was placed on the Treasury and the DirectGov websites. DWP officials also took steps to disseminate the information, including an article for InTouch (an electronic newsletter for key external stakeholders and claimant representative organisations), and a letter in July explaining the change to all DWP stakeholder groups which was followed up with a further letter on 31 August to let them know what the new standard interest rate would be.

We would not have been able to provide claimants with the actual details of the new rate until the rate was published by the Bank of England on 31 August, which only allowed a small window of time to inform claimants of the actual rate and its effect on their benefit entitlement. When the standard interest rate moved up and down, before being frozen at 6.08% in November 2008, exactly the same limited notification period would have arisen.

As cases are reassessed by the Department's computer systems, letters are usually sent out automatically to claimants advising them of the change. The system letters started going out around mid-September, in advance of the change on 1 October 2010. Mortgage direct interest payments are made four-weekly in arrears, so most claimants would have been informed around a month before their new interest payments was made.

Karl Turner: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent progress his Department has made in negotiations with mortgage lenders on averaging out mortgage rates under the Support for Mortgage Interest scheme. [20029]

Steve Webb: We plan to hold further discussions on this proposal with the Council of Mortgage Lenders in the coming weeks.

Pension Credit

Rachel Reeves: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions at what rate he intends to increase the thresholds for the guaranteed credit and savings credit elements of pension credit after April 2011; and what assessment he has made of the potential effect of such increases on the level of pension credit relative to the basic state pension in the next four years. [21835]

Steve Webb: An uprating statement for 2011 benefit rates will be made in the House later this year and will include pension credit. The Government have committed to the "triple guarantee" for the uprating of basic state pension and in 2011 we will ensure the majority of those on pension credit will benefit from at least the cash increase in the basic state pension. There is a statutory requirement to increase the standard minimum guarantee at least in line with earnings each year.

Pensions

Mr Douglas Alexander: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whether he has made a recent estimate of the proportion of spending on *(a)* the basic state pension, *(b)* the savings credit and *(c)* guarantee credit which is received by each decile of the population. [20530]

Steve Webb: The information requested is as follows:

(a) Information on the proportion of benefit spending on basic state pension by income deciles is not available exactly as requested. Information set out in the following table shows the proportion of the expenditure on overall state pension (basic state pension and additional pension) by equivalised household income deciles on an after housing cost basis. Estimates are derived from the Family Resources Survey and are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.

The proportion of spending on state pension by pensioner income decile basic state pension and additional pension for pensioners on an after housing cost basis in Great Britain, equivalised, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	Percentage
Bottom decile	8
Second decile	9
Third decile	10
Fourth decile	10
Fifth decile	10
Sixth decile	11
Seventh decile	11
Eighth decile	11
Ninth decile	11
Top decile	10

The proportion of spending on state pension by pensioner income decile basic state pension and additional pension for pensioners on an after housing cost basis in Great Britain, equivalised, 2006-07 to 2008-09

(b) and *(c)* Information on the proportion of spending on guarantee credit and savings credit by income deciles is not available as requested. Information set out in the following table shows the proportion of the expenditure on pension credit (guarantee credit and savings credit) by equivalised household income deciles on an after housing cost basis. Estimates are derived from the Family Resources Survey and are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.

The proportion of spending on pension credit by pensioner income deciles guarantee credit plus savings credit for pensioners on an after housing cost basis in Great Britain, equivalised, 2006-07 to 2008-09

	Percentage
Bottom decile	9
Second decile	20
Third decile	14
Fourth decile	10
Fifth decile	10
Sixth decile	8
Seventh decile	11
Eighth decile	11
Ninth decile	6
Top decile	2

Notes:

1. Estimates are derived from the Family Resources Survey and are based on a three year average to help take account of small sample sizes in certain deciles and statistical variation across the years.
2. Estimates are rounded to the nearest percentage point, so the deciles may not sum to 100% due to rounding.
3. The income measures used to derive the estimates shown employ the same methodology as the Department for Work and Pensions publication 'Households Below Average Income' series.
4. The income of single pensioners are divided by 0.58 to take account of their costs relative to a pensioner couple household who have shared costs—this is known as equivalisation. The quintiles and deciles are derived using OECD equivalisation factors.
5. The Family Resources Survey is known to undercount receipt of certain benefits. This methodology assumes that this undercount is spread proportionally across deciles.

Take up of the guarantee credit pension credit was between 71% and 81% of those estimated to be entitled in 2008-09. The majority of pensioners in the lowest decile appear from the data collected in the Family Resources Survey to have an entitlement to pension credit but have not made a claim so pension credit expenditure on pensioners in the lowest decile is relatively low.

Pension credit recipients within the top four deciles generally have severe disabilities, which entitle them to disability benefits and premiums which increase their income to reflect the additional costs of disability. The breakdown of income takes no account of the extra costs of disability. In addition pensioner's income is assessed independently of the wider household to establish entitlement to pension credit. No account is taken of the income of the wider household, whose income raises the household equivalised income to the higher deciles.

Pensions: Females

Mrs Chapman: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many married women eligible to claim a state pension on the basis of their husband's contributions did so in each year prior to March 2008 for which figures are available; how many such claims were successful; and what estimate he has made of the number of eligible married women who failed to claim. [20854]

Steve Webb: The information is not available in the format requested. Such information as is available is in the following table. This includes married women who are entitled to some basic state pension based on their own national insurance contributions, which has been increased up to the level of the Category B pension using their husband's national insurance contribution record.

Married women receiving a basic state pension based on their husband's national insurance contribution record (a Category B pension)—Time series: March 1995 to February 2008[1]

	Category B pension
March each year	
1995[2]	2,106,900
1996	2,141,400
1997	2,176,800
1998	2,208,300
1999	2,233,200
2000	2,253,100
2001	2,252,400
2002	2,251,700
February each year	
2003[3]	2,280,480
2004	2,281,620
2005	2,260,270
2006	2,224,160
2007	2,183,890
2008	2,138,380

[1] Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data is the preferred source when producing analysis. When WPLS 100% data are not available then sample data are used instead. WPLS state pension data are available from May 2002—prior to that sample data are used.

[2] *March 1995 to March 2002.* Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest hundred. Numbers are based on a 5% sample and are therefore subject to a degree of sampling variation. Figures are rated in line with the WPLS total caseload.

[3] *February 2003 to February 2008* Caseload figures are rounded to the nearest ten.

Source:

March 1995 to March 2002: DWP Information Directorate 5% sample data.

February 2003 to February 2008: DWP Information Directorate Work and Pensions Longitudinal Study (WPLS) 100% data.

Remploy

Alun Cairns: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent discussions he has had with *(a)* management and *(b)* employees of Remploy; what plans he has for the future of Remploy; and if he will make a statement. [21031]

Maria Miller: The Minister for Disabled People and departmental officials recently met with trade union representatives to listen to their views on the future of Remploy. We will continue to work with and listen to the views of the trade unions, Remploy employees and all those who have a close interest in Remploy.

The review of Remploy Ltd was in connection with its status as a non-departmental public body. The status of Remploy as a non-departmental public body also remains unchanged. In the light of the spending review settlement I can also confirm that the budget for Remploy Ltd remains unchanged.

Remploy continues to be part of the Government's programme of support to help severely disabled people into work. I do, however, want to look at how we ensure continued improvements in the service provided by Remploy to disabled people. I will continue to work closely with Remploy and other key stakeholders in order to achieve this.

Sky Lanterns: Safety

Annette Brooke: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what recent representations his Department has received on the safety instructions on sky lanterns. [21006]

Mr Davey *[holding answer 1 November 2010]:* I have been asked to reply.

We have received no recent representations specifically concerning the safety instructions on sky lanterns. However, BIS and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs are aware of the broader safety concerns with these products. In August, BIS wrote to local authority trading standards services, asking them to make importers aware that some sky lanterns lacked full instructions, and encouraging them to get manufacturers to address this problem.

Social Security Benefits: Fraud

Teresa Pearce: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions how many calls the National Benefit Fraud Hotline received in each of the last five years; and what proportion of those calls were referred to *(a)* the Fraud Investigation Service and *(b)* Customer Compliance each year. [22080]

Chris Grayling: Every call to the National Benefit Fraud Hotline is examined by the Department. Where there is enough evidence to indicate potential benefit fraud the case is passed to either the Fraud Investigation Service for further investigation or to our Customer Compliance teams in Jobcentre Plus who will scrutinise the relevant benefit claim and make adjustments to entitlements as necessary.

The number of calls received in each of the last five years is set out in the following table:

National Benefit Fraud Hotline

	Calls received
2005-06	211,599
2006-07	215,924
2007-08	237,101
2008-09	241,159
2009-10	253,708

Information on the proportion of calls referred to the Fraud Investigation Service and Customer Compliance each year is not readily available. I will write to the hon. Member when the information is available and a copy of this letter will be placed in the Library.

Work Capability Assessment: Appeals

Gregg McClymont: To ask the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions what his most recent estimate is of the cost to the public purse of appeals proceedings against medical assessment decisions relating to disability living allowance in the latest period for which figures are available. [18680]

Maria Miller: We are unable to provide the cost to the public purse of appeal proceedings against medical assessment decisions relating to disability living allowance (DLA). DLA appeals can be made against all decisions and the management information systems of the Pension, Disability and Carers Service (PDCS) and the Tribunal Service do not go to the level of detail that would identify those appeals specifically related to medical assessments.

The total number of appeals in relation to the total number of decisions made for DLA for the period 2009-10 is shown in the following table:

	Number
Total DLA decisions for 2009-10	957,000
DLA decisions made by the appeals service	51,000

Note:
Figures rounded to the nearest thousand.
Source:
Department for Work and Pensions—RDA60209, 60205 and 80123 reports Management Information Statistics.

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Audit Commission: Public Appointments

Mr Watson: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether his Department sought legal advice on its decision not to reappoint Ms Jenny Watson to the board of the Audit Commission; and if he will make a statement. [21340]

Robert Neill *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* Decisions about reappointments to the Board of the Audit Commission were taken in accordance with the Office of the Commissioner for Public Appointments' code of practice, which does not involve the seeking of legal advice about appointment decisions.

The Secretary of State decided to recruit by open competition new Commissioners to the Commission's Board to bring new private sector expertise and skills to help with the upcoming transition of the audit practice into the private sector. He has now appointed three new Commissioners with such experience to the board.

I have placed in the Library of the House a copy of the letter relating to the decision not to reappoint Ms Watson.

Council Housing: Finance

Alison Seabeck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what assumptions his Department has made on the rates of construction of new council dwellings in developing its proposed new framework for council house finance. [21953]

Andrew Stunell: A self-financing settlement will provide all local authorities with sufficient resources to maintain their existing stock in a decent condition. It will also provide some capacity for local authorities to build new council homes, but that is very much a local decision for the authorities concerned.

Departmental Public Expenditure

Dr Phillip Lee: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what mechanisms are in place to ensure that his Department's decisions on regional funding allocations are based on the most recent available population data. [20690]

Robert Neill: The Department for Communities and Local Government is a contributor to the regional development agency single pot. Population data were used as a factor shaping funding allocations to RDAs following spending review 2007 and before. Allocations to RDAs following conclusion of spending review 2010 will be determined shortly but are likely to be based on the levels of legal commitment and anticipated closure costs.

EU Grants and Loans

Mr Marsden: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what discussions he has had with *(a)* ministerial colleagues and *(b)* officials of his Department on the future arrangements for handling of funds from the European Regional Development Fund by Government Departments. [22084]

Robert Neill: We are currently considering the future arrangements for running European Regional Development Fund programmes in the regions, after the abolition of the regional development agencies. This has included discussions at ministerial and official level. We will make an announcement when the decision has been reached.

Fire Services: Industrial Disputes

Priti Patel: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent assessment he has made of the preparedness of local fire authorities and the readiness of contingency plans in the event of industrial action. [18881]

Robert Neill: It is vitally important that fire and rescue authorities have robust business continuity plans in place to deal with serious disruptive events. This is not only their statutory duty, but what their communities will expect. The current strike action in London highlights the need to have comprehensive plans in place.

The Government have taken a more proactive stance in assessing the effectiveness of business continuity arrangements in Fire and Rescue Authorities. A recent Audit Commission report concluded that these were satisfactory. We will be working with the sector to reassess the position and I have asked the Chief Fire and Rescue Adviser to monitor and report in the new year.

Fire Services: West Midlands

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether *(a)* he and *(b)* officials in his Department have had meetings with public affairs companies working on behalf of West Midlands Fire Authority since his appointment. [21696]

Robert Neill: Neither Ministers nor officials in the Department of Communities and Local Government have had any meetings with public affairs companies working on behalf of West Midlands Fire and Rescue Authorities. Ministers and officials meet with MPs, councillors and Fire Authority officials on a range of matters from time to time. As the Secretary of State made clear in his press notice of 5 August, local authorities should not feel the need to waste taxpayers' money on professional public affairs companies to make representations to Government.

Housing Benefit: Homelessness

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance he has issued concerning the status as unintentionally homeless of local housing allowance claimants who have *(a)* left their home, *(b)* accrued rent arrears arising from a shortfall between rents charged and allowance payable and *(c)* applied as homeless to local authorities. [22094]

Grant Shapps: Chapter 11 of the "Homelessness Code of Guidance for Local Authorities", issued under section 182 of the Housing Act 1996, provides guidance on intentional homelessness. Chapter 11 includes the following:

> "For homelessness to be intentional, the act or omission that led to homelessness must have been deliberate, and applicants must always be given the opportunity to explain such behaviour. An act or omission should not generally be treated as deliberate, even where deliberately carried out, if it is forced upon the applicant through no fault of their own."

(paragraph 11.16);

> "Generally, an act or omission should not be considered deliberate where: i) the act or omission was non-payment of rent which was the result of housing benefit delays or financial difficulties which were beyond the applicant's control;"

(paragraph 11.17);

> "An applicant's actions would not amount to intentional homelessness where he or she has lost his or her home, or was obliged to sell it, because of rent or mortgage arrears resulting from significant financial difficulties, and the applicant was genuinely unable to keep up the rent or mortgage payments even after claiming benefits, and no further financial help was available."

(paragraph 11.18); and

> "An applicant cannot be treated as intentionally homeless unless it would have been reasonable for him or her to have continued to occupy the accommodation."

(paragraph 11.22).

Local Government Executive

Mr Sanders: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to bring forward proposals to enable local authorities to return to the committee system of government. [21893]

Robert Neill: As set out in our coalition agreement, "The Coalition: Our Programme for Government", we are committed to allow councils to return to the committee system should they wish to. We intend to provide for this in our forthcoming Localism Bill.

Local Government: Redundancy

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an estimate of the number of redundancies likely to be made by local authorities as a result of the spending reductions proposed in the Comprehensive Spending Review. [21583]

Robert Neill: It is for individual councils to make local decisions about how their work forces are organised and managed to deliver efficient services for local taxpayers within the resources they have available.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will make an estimate of the likely cost to local authorities of staff redundancy arising from the spending reductions proposed in the comprehensive spending review. [21584]

Robert Neill: Redundancy decisions are for individual councils to take within the discretions provided by the Local Government (Early Termination of Employment) (Discretionary Compensation) (England and Wales) Regulations 2006.

Members: Correspondence

Amber Rudd: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government when he plans to respond to the letter of 7 October 2010 from the hon. Member for Hastings and Rye on the Bellwin Fund. [21196]

Robert Neill: I replied to my hon. Friend on 28 October.

Opencast Mining: Planning Permission

Mark Pritchard: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will review his Department's planning guidance on the distance between residential homes and open cast mining areas for the purposes of aligning it with the equivalent guidance in Scotland. [21698]

Robert Neill: We will publish and present to Parliament a simple and consolidated national planning policy framework covering all forms of development and setting out national economic, environmental and social priorities. We will make an announcement on how we propose to take forward the national planning framework and the implications for specific areas of planning policy shortly.

Overseas Visits: Public Expenditure

Eric Ollerenshaw: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will list the *(a)* destination, *(b)* cost to the public purse and *(c)* purpose of each overseas visit undertaken by the right hon. Member for Tooting (Sadiq Khan) when he was Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State in his Department. [20157]

Robert Neill: The information requested is as follow:

Date	*Destination*	*Purpose of visit*	*Total cost including travel and accommodation (£)*
5-9 April 2009	Karachi, Islamabad and Mirpur, Pakistan	Ministerial visit on preventing extremism	5,028
17-20 May 2009	Riyadh, Mecca and Medina, Saudi Arabia	Ministerial visit on preventing extremism	2,332

Parish Councils: Disclosure of Information

Julian Smith: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what steps his Department is taking to ensure transparency in the activities of parish councils. [21434]

Robert Neill: I refer my hon. Friend to the answer given to him by my right hon. Friend the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government on 21 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 813W. It is important that there is transparency in the activities of parish and towns councils, and accordingly we are requesting them to publish details of items of expenditure over £500 online, so that local electors know how their council tax is being spent. We will continue to work with parish councils to help ensure that they can fulfil this request.

Planning Permission

Fiona Bruce: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what guidance his Department issues on the period within which a local authority must issue a written decision notice following a strategic planning committee decision to refuse planning approval. [21597]

Robert Neill: The Department does not issue guidance on this matter. Local authorities are required to determine planning applications within the timeframes set out in Article 29 of the Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010. For an application for major development, this is 13 weeks, in respect of any development that is not major development, 8 weeks, and in cases where the application is subject to an Environmental Impact Assessment, 16 weeks, or such extended period as may have been agreed in writing between the applicant and the local planning authority.

Where a local authority fails to determine an application within the set timescales, an applicant has the right of appeal against non-determination under section 78 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Private Rented Housing

Lisa Nandy: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government (1) what his estimate is of the number of rooms available in the private rented sector in shared accommodation in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority, *(c)* constituency and *(d)* broad rental market area; and what his estimate is the proportion of such rooms which will be offered at rents below the local housing allowance rates in 2012; [19857]

(2) how many and what proportion of people aged 25 to 35 who live in the private rented sector but do not claim housing benefit occupy shared housing in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority, *(c)* constituency and *(d)* broad rental market area; [19880]

(3) how many and what proportion of properties in each *(a)* region, *(b)* local authority, *(c)* constituency and *(d)* broad rental market area are shared accommodation. [19884]

Steve Webb: I have been asked to reply.

Information on the number of dwellings available in shared accommodation in the private rented sector is not available. In 2012, the local housing allowance rates will be set at the 30th percentile of rents in each broad rental market area, ensuring that 30 percent of properties, for each property size, would be affordable under the local housing allowance arrangements.

Social Rented Housing

Kate Green: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what estimate he has made of the number of individuals in households in which at least one member works for at least 16 hours per week who will *(a)* have their income reduced and *(b)* fall below the equivalised poverty threshold of 60 per cent. of median household income as a result of his proposals on the level of rent which social landlords may charge new tenants. [21917]

Grant Shapps: We will publish more detail on the implementation of new 'affordable rent' tenure shortly. Existing social tenants will retain their existing rights and tenure. Our proposals will involve increasing the affordable housing stock, increasing opportunity and quality of life for those currently on housing waiting lists.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many households in social housing have registered for a transfer to smaller accommodation *(a)* nationally and *(b)* in each region in the latest period in which figures are available. [22101]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government how many transfers from larger to smaller properties took place within the social housing sector in the last 12 months. [22102]

Andrew Stunell: According to the Department's HSSA local authority return, in 2008-09 local authorities made a total of 30,896 lettings to tenants who were transferring within the same LA. Of these a total of 6,830 lettings (22% of the total) involved a move to a property with fewer bedrooms than they had in their previous home.

Equivalent figures for housing associations are not available.

Further information on social lettings is published in the live tables at the following link:

http://www.communities.gov.uk/housing/housingresearch/housingstatistics/housingstatisticsby/rentslettings/livetables/

Ms Buck: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government what recent estimate he has made of the average waiting time for households in the social rented sector seeking properties with *(a)* one bedroom, *(b)* two bedrooms, *(c)* three bedrooms and *(d)* four bedrooms or more in each (i) region and (ii) local housing authority area in the latest period in which figures are available. [22103]

Andrew Stunell: The information requested is not collected centrally.

Supporting People Programme

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government whether he plans to reduce the funding allocated to the Supporting People budget for local authorities by the same amount in each year of the spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [22117]

Andrew Stunell: The Supporting People programme national allocation (England) for the current financial year and each year of the spending review are:

Supporting People

	£ million
2010-11	1,636.00
2011-12	1,625.00
2012-13	1,620.00
2013-14	1,620.00
2014-15	1,590.21

Individual local authority allocations will form part of the local government announcement to be made in December.

Supporting People Programme: Brighton

Simon Kirby: To ask the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government if he will estimate the change in the Supporting People budget for Brighton and Hove City Council in each year of the spending review period; and if he will make a statement. [22118]

Andrew Stunell: Individual local authority Supporting People programme allocations will form part of the local government announcement to be made in December.

DEFENCE

Nuclear Missile Sharing

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will review the position set out in the December 2006 exchange of letters between the then Prime Minister and the President of the United States on nuclear missile sharing to take account of the current economic climate. [20628]

Dr Fox: We continue to believe that the arrangements outlined in the December 2006 exchange of letters between the then Prime Minister and President of the United States represents excellent value for money for the United Kingdom. Therefore we believe that, especially in the current economic climate, it makes sense to continue cooperation with the US through the auspices of the Polaris Sales Agreement and Mutual Defence Agreement.

Afghanistan: Peacekeeping Operations

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how much his Department plans to spend on operations in Afghanistan in each of the next four years. [21295]

Dr Fox: The Government will fully fund the net additional costs of military operations in Afghanistan from the Government reserve. For the spending review period years, the special reserve has been forecast at £4 billion, £3.8 billion, £3.8 billion and £3.5 billion.

The specific costs of operations in Afghanistan at any time, will be dependent on a range of factors including the nature of the mission, the size of the deployed force, the operational tempo, and the level of spend on urgent operational requirements. The precise spend is, therefore, difficult to predict at any given range. Accordingly, the Department requests resources from Parliament on an annual basis, through the supply estimates process, using updated forecasts in each financial year.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many of each type of Royal Air Force combat aircraft are deployed in Afghanistan. [21838]

Nick Harvey: There are currently 10 UK Tornado GR4 aircraft deployed in Afghanistan.

Nicholas Soames: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the Royal Air Force command structure is on the ground in Afghanistan. [21840]

Mr Robathan: There are two UK Expeditionary Air Wings deployed in Afghanistan, one at Camp Bastion and the other at Kandahar Airfield. These report to the UK's Air Component Commander based in Al Udeid, Qatar.

Air Force: Deployment

Mr Russell Brown: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on how many occasions Royal Air Force fighters were scrambled from each base to intercept aircraft in the last 12 months. [21836]

Nick Harvey: Royal Air Force Quick Reaction Alert (QRA) aircraft have launched on 13 separate days between 1 November 2009 and 31 October 2010.

QRA aircraft are held at ground readiness at RAF Coningsby and RAF Leuchars. I am withholding the information as to which base QRA aircraft were launched from for each incident as its disclosure would, or would be likely to prejudice the capability, effectiveness or security of the armed forces.

Aircraft Carriers

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of his proposed modifications to aircraft carrier catapult-launch and arresting-gear operations. [21312]

Peter Luff: As announced on 19 October 2010, we plan to deliver the carrier strike capability from around 2020 with the carrier variant of the Joint Strike Fighter and Queen Elizabeth class carrier fitted with catapults and arrestor gear to enhance the capability of UK carrier strike. We are investigating the optimum means of achieving this outcome, working with industry and our international partners. No decisions have been taken as to the type of system, delivery dates or procurement route, or whether both carriers will be converted. Until this work is complete, it is too early to provide an accurate estimate of the cost.

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the correspondence address is of each supplier of *(a)* equipment, *(b)* personnel, *(c)* parts and *(d)* assembly facilities for the aircraft carrier project; and how many such suppliers there are in each (i) Government office region, (ii) local authority area and (iii) parliamentary constituency. [21439]

Peter Luff: I will place the available information in the Library of the House in respect of the members of the Aircraft Carrier Alliance and the sub-contractors supporting the build of the Queen Elizabeth Class aircraft carriers.

Armed Forces: Deployment

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the deployability ratios for *(a)* the Royal Marine Commando and *(b)* the Army infantry are. [21272]

Nick Harvey: The information is not held in the format requested.

The following table indicates what proportion of Royal Marine Commandos and Army Infantry were medically fully deployable, medically limited deployable, or medically not deployable as at 1 September 2010.

Percentage

	Royal Marine Commando	*Infantry*
Medically Fully Deployable	87.8	82.6
Medically Limited Deployable	6.4	10.2
Medically Not Deployable	5.9	7.2

Notes:

1. Royal Marine Commando has been defined as all trained regular Royal Marines excluding Royal Marines Band.

2. The figures are for trained Regular Forces only and therefore exclude Gurkhas, Full Time Reserve Service, Mobilised Reserves, TA and all other Reserves.

Other factors may lead to an individual being unable to deploy at any given time, such as absence on a training course. Data relating to such additional reasons are not held centrally and could only be determined by conducting a manual search of records on multiple sites.

Armed Forces: Disability Living Allowance

Laura Sandys: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence for what reason injured personnel assessed by the Service Personnel and Veterans Agency are required to undergo assessment by the Department for Work and Pensions in order to claim disability living allowance. [21360]

Mr Robathan: The War Pension Scheme (WPS) administered by the Ministry of Defence (MOD) provides no-fault compensation to all former service personnel where illness, injury or death is caused by service before 6 April 2005. Where there is an entitlement to supplementary allowances under this scheme these are paid by the MOD. However, a pensioner cannot receive these allowances at the same time as receiving benefits for the same condition(s) from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP). For example, a pensioner in receipt of War Pension Mobility Supplement (WPMS) cannot also receive the mobility component of disability living allowance (DLA) from the DWP.

Armed Forces: Housing

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many units of each type of living accommodation are available at *(a)* RAF Marham and *(b)* RAF Lossiemouth; and what the rate of occupancy of each type is. [21441]

Mr Robathan: At RAF Marham there are 641 service family accommodation (SFA) properties, of which 584 are currently occupied, and 1,195 single living accommodation (SLA) bedspaces of which 1,162 are occupied.

At RAF Lossiemouth there are 175 SFA, of which 165 are occupied and 862 SLA of which 853 are occupied. Some families based at Lossiemouth may also reside in SFA at Elgin.

Armed Forces: Redundancy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what proportion of the 17,000 reduction in Armed Forces personnel he expects to be achieved through redundancy. [19543]

Mr Robathan: Every opportunity will be taken to reduce manpower through natural wastage and reduced intake. Where this cannot be achieved a targeted redundancy programme will go ahead.

Army: Reorganisation

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence by what means he plans to reform the structure of the Army without altering the structure of infantry battalions; and if he will make a statement. [21300]

Nick Harvey: The Strategic Defence and Security Review has determined that the Army should be restructured into five multi-role brigades (MRBs) designed to make the Army more flexible. This restructuring will take place alongside measures to reduce the size of the Army by approximately 7,000 by 2015. Detailed planning to determine exactly how and when this restructuring will be done is now under way. All infantry battalions will be incorporated into the new Army structure, while the reductions in personnel will be found from administrative and supporting elements such as headquarters staff and some combat support and combat service support force elements. Infantry battalions will not operate exclusively under the MRB structure, as they are routinely attributed to other military tasks.

Astute Class Submarines

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when each boat in the Astute-class submarine flotilla will enter service; what stage of production has been reached in respect of each boat which has been ordered; and when he expects each of the remaining boats to be ordered. [21108]

Peter Luff: On 19 October 2010, the Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) (Cm7948) confirmed the Department's intention to purchase seven Astute class submarines. Since 1997, contracts have been awarded that relate to six Astute submarines. Boats 1 to 3 were ordered as one batch and subsequent orders for Boats 4 to 6 have followed the previous Government's policy of incremental approval.

The First of Class, HMS Astute, was commissioned into the Royal Navy on 27 August 2010 and is currently undertaking a period of extensive sea trials before she is handed over to the Royal Navy for operational service. Production of Boats 2 to 5 continues at BAE Systems Submarine Solutions' shipyard in Barrow-in-Furness, and earlier this year long lead items for Boat 6 were ordered.

As part of the SDSR, which included a commitment to build a seventh boat, the Department also detailed its intention to work with British industry to improve efficiency and optimise to expected demand its capacity to build and support submarines. The outcome of this work will inform the future contracting milestones and in-service dates for the Astute class of submarines. It will not be possible to confirm this information until it has been approved through the Department's and HM Treasury's formal investment approvals process.

Ballistic Missile Defence

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which military bases in the UK *(a)* form part of and *(b)* provide support services for the US Missile Defense System; what support for the system is provided in each case; and if he will make a statement. [21161]

Nick Harvey: The UK provides support to the US Ballistic Missile Defense system by sharing radar early warning information from RAF Fylingdales and by allowing the US to use a ground station at RAF Menwith Hill to receive satellite early warning information. This information is routed into the US Ballistic Missile Defense command and control system.

Challenger Tanks

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence where the remaining Challenger 2 tanks will be based after 2015; and if he will make a statement. [21402]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* Following the strategic defence and security review's conclusion that the Army should reduce the number of Challenger 2 tanks, detailed work on planning and implementation has now begun. This will determine where the Army's Challenger 2 tanks will be based after 2015. Factors likely to affect this work will include the Army's accelerated withdrawal from Germany, revised fleet management options and training requirements, and ongoing work on the future of the Defence estate.

Clyde Naval Base

Mr Reid: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of *(a)* service personnel, *(b)* civilian staff directly employed by his Department and *(c)* civilian staff employed by contractors who (i) are based at HMNB Clyde and (ii) will be based at HMNB Clyde after it becomes the base for all Royal Navy submarines. [21406]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* Approximately 3,300 military personnel and 1,390 Ministry of Defence civilians are employed at Faslane and Coulport, the two main sites at Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde. In addition there are some 1,600 civilians employed by contractors.

The Government are committed to the Maritime Change Programme, which will make HMNB Clyde the main operating base for all classes of submarine. We are now assessing the impact of these changes across Defence, including personnel, accommodation, support and infrastructure.

Defence: Finance

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence with reference to Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty, Cm 7948, page 15, to which projects the £38 billion of unfunded liabilities relate. [19641]

Dr Fox: The £38 billion figure refers to the estimated difference between the cost of the Defence programme and the Ministry of Defence budget under an assumed flat real settlement over the 10 years 2011-12 to 2020-21, prior to the outcomes of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. The figure is based on a number of assumptions, including inflation, fuel prices, foreign exchange rates and armed forces pay awards, and has the potential, therefore, to change over time.

	Unfunded liability over 10 years (£ billion)
Equipment procurement and support	20.5
Other pressures[1]	17.7
Total	38.2

[1] Of which service manpower costs above inflation are £4.4 billion

Departmental Contracts

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which contracts his Department has renegotiated since May 2010; and which contracts it plans to renegotiate following the outcome of the Strategic Defence and Security Review. [20417]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what contracts his Department plans to renegotiate; and with which companies he has begun contract negotiations. [21304]

Peter Luff: At any one time the Ministry of Defence has many thousands of extant contracts. These are not centrally managed. However, during the period from May to October 2010 a number of contracts will have been renegotiated as part of routine MOD business.

The Strategic Defence and Security Review (SDSR) set out the capabilities the armed forces require now and in the future. As a consequence, changes are required to a number of our equipment and support programmes.

The MOD will now start to engage its suppliers in commercial renegotiations to implement the major changes that were announced in the SDSR. We have identified over 600 contracts that are likely to be renegotiated in this phase of work. At this initial stage we are unable to provide detail on precise contracts and the impact of these renegotiations on defence and associated industries.

In parallel, the MOD will also be renegotiating some private finance initiative contracts; implementing pan-government efficiency reform initiatives; introducing an improved way of managing our estates through Next Generation Estates Contracts (NGEC); and seeking short-term and structural cost reductions. Prior to the SDSR, the MOD held a series of sessions with key suppliers inviting them to offer innovative cost-effective solutions to providing current and future defence capabilities. MOD officials saw 17 major companies, including the MOD's top 10 suppliers, and received more than 100 proposals which could yet yield potentially significant savings. All of the proposals require further detailed work on legal, financial and commercial issues.

The MOD is also in discussion with the Confederation of British Industry (CBI) to review the Government Profit Formula and its Associated Arrangements (the so-called "Yellow Book"). This review will start early in the new year and is expected to last for 18 months.

The renegotiation process is being led by a steering group comprising senior members of the MOD, meeting twice a week to ensure efficiencies are delivered as planned. The steering group will report to a Whitehall Liaison Group to ensure cross-Government coherence.

Departmental Manpower

Bridget Phillipson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many *(a)* military and *(b)* civilian personnel in (i) his Department and (ii) each of the armed services are employed at each rank or grade in each (A) Government office region, (B) local authority area and (C) parliamentary constituency. [21241]

Mr Robathan: Details of the number and location of military personnel broken down by Service, county, unitary authority and local authority area are available on the following website:

> http://www.dasa.mod.uk/applications/newWeb/www/index.php?page=48&pubType=0&thiscontent=100&PublishTime=09:30:00&date=2010-08-26&disText=01%20Jul%202010&from=listing&topDate=2010-08-26

I will place a copy in the Library of the House.

Details of civilian personnel numbers and location is produced for the Department as Civilian Personnel Statistics 06—MOD Civilian Personnel by global and UK locations, a copy of which will be placed in the Library of the House.

Residential address information for both civilian and military personnel is not held with reference to parliamentary constituency. Information on rank or grade is not held in the format requested.

Departmental Redundancy

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of *(a)* 5,000 redundancies from the Royal Navy, *(b)* 7,000 redundancies from the Army, *(c)* 5,000 redundancies from the Royal Air Force and *(d)* 25,000 redundancies from the civilian staff of his Department. [21317]

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) how much funding to meet staff redundancy costs was identified in his Department's settlement letter in respect of the Comprehensive Spending Review; [21523]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of staff redundancy in each of the next four years. [21525]

Mr Robathan: As far as possible, the Ministry of Defence will achieve the reductions announced in the spending review and the Strategic Defence and Security Review through natural wastage. Where this is not possible, early release/redundancy schemes will be put in place.

The terms of armed forces redundancy schemes are governed by Statutory Instruments. The compensation paid to civil servants on loss of office is governed by the rules of the Civil Service Compensation Scheme. This is a statutory scheme on which the Minister for the Cabinet Office announced plans for reform in July. Work is continuing to finalise the new compensation arrangements and an Amendment Scheme will be put to Parliament to effect the changes in due course.

Until the terms for the Civilian Voluntary Early Release Scheme are known, and further detailed planning is complete on where and when the reductions will take place, it is not possible to provide robust estimates of the costs of redundancy.

The Government do not make public the contents of departmental settlement letters.

Ms Angela Eagle: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the number of redundancies arising from the spending reductions proposed in the Comprehensive Spending Review in respect of *(a)* his Department and *(b)* its non-departmental public bodies. [21524]

Mr Robathan: The Ministry of Defence estimates that it will need to make staff reductions of some 25,000 civilian employees and 17,000 service personnel as a result of the spending review and the strategic defence and security review. The civilian reductions include a presumed transfer of posts outside of the MOD through the announced sale of the Defence Support Group and greater use of contractorisation to undertake support activities.

As far as possible, these reductions will be achieved through natural wastage. Where this is not possible, early release/redundancy schemes will be put in place. Until further detailed planning is complete, it is not possible to provide detailed estimates of how may redundancies will be necessary. In some instances, for example where we have decided to sell or outsource the function, reductions will be achieved by the transfer of employees to the private sector.

Staffing levels in the MOD's non-departmental public bodies are a matter for their own management.

European Fighter Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which air-launched weapons he intends to complement the Typhoon, as referred to in Securing Britain in an Age of Uncertainty. [19557]

Peter Luff: Typhoon will be equipped with the Paveway IV bomb from 2012. We are also exploring the future integration of the Meteor air to air missile, Brimstone and Storm Shadow air-launched weapons.

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to the public purse of giving Typhoon an air-to-ground capability. [21399]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The equipment cost of integrating an air-to-ground capability on Typhoon Tranche 1 aircraft is £85 million. The Typhoon Future Capability Programme is planned to provide enhancements to Typhoon Tranche 2 aircraft, both in the air-to-air and air-to-ground roles. The forecast equipment cost of this programme, as published in the Major Projects Report 2010, is £489 million.

Fleet Air Arm

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to retain the fixed-wing fast-jet flying skills of the Fleet Air Arm during any period between the phasing out of Harriers and the phasing in of the Joint Strike Fighter. [20393]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* We plan to regenerate a Carrier Strike capability by around 2020 based on the Queen Elizabeth class carriers and the more capable Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike Fighter (JSF) in a JSF force which will be manned by Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel. We are presently putting together a detailed plan for managing the transition to the new capability. One important element of this will involve the Department working closely with industry and allies, particularly the US and France. As an example, we already have a small team of Royal Navy and Royal Air Force personnel in the United States as part of the JSF programme, and we expect their numbers to rise steadily over the next few years.

Future Large Aircraft

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many A400M aircraft he plans to procure. [21301]

Peter Luff: The UK expects to receive no fewer than 22 A400M aircraft, as published in the Major Projects Report 2010.

Harrier Aircraft

John Glen: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will assess the effect on the capability of any new aircraft carrier of any deletion of Harrier capability [17944]

Peter Luff: The strategic defence and security review is due to be announced to the House on 19 October 2010. Following its publication, I will write to the hon. Member.

Substantive answer from Peter Luff to the hon. Member for Salisbury (John Glen), dated 3 November 2010:

In my response to your recent Parliamentary Question (Official Report, 18 October 2010, Column 483W), I offered to write to the honourable Member after the publication of the Strategic Defence and Security Review to answer his question about the effect on the UK's future carrier strike capability of the (SDSR) decision to delete Harrier GR9.

As the Prime Minister announced to the House, we have decided to retire the Harrier, which has served this country well for 40 years. Although the Harrier is a flexible and capable aircraft, against the background of the severe financial pressures the nation faces, we have concluded that we should sustain the Tornado fleet which is currently supporting operations in Afghanistan, rather than the Harrier. This was a very difficult decision, not least because of its impact on those who have dedicated their lives to flying and supporting the Harrier and those who depend on the programme for their livelihoods. We accept there will be a gap in carrier strike capability until the end of the decade, but judge that in the longer term we cannot assume that bases for land-based aircraft will be available when and where we need them.

The SDSR confirmed that we will build both of the carriers, but that we only expect to operate one of them at any time, with the second ship being held in extended readiness. We also intend to maximise the carrier's effectiveness by adapting it to operate the more capable Carrier Variant of the Joint Strike Fighter, which will require the installation of catapults and arrestor gear. This will also provide greater interoperability with key allies, such as the US and France. We are now investigating the optimum means of delivering this outcome.

I have asked for a copy of this letter to be placed in the Library of the House.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what steps he plans to take to retrain Harrier jump jet pilots once the Harrier fleet is retired. [21316]

Nick Harvey: In the strategic defence and security review, it was announced that the Harrier fleet will be retired by 1 April 2011. The Royal Navy and the Royal Air Force are currently planning for the re-employment of Harrier pilots to fly other aircraft types. The requirement for re-training will be assessed once the plans for re-employment are completed.

Joint Strike Fighter Aircraft

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent discussions he has had with his US counterpart on his Department's decision not to purchase the short take-off and vertical landing variant of the F35 aircraft. [21269]

Peter Luff: The Secretary of State for Defence and the Defence Ministerial Team regularly engage with their US counterparts on a range of issues. Recent discussions have included the Strategic Defence and Security Review and our decision to purchase the more capable carrier-variant of the Joint Strike Fighter aircraft.

Military Aircraft: Procurement

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence if he will undertake a feasibility study of purchasing a quantity of fast-jet aircraft off-the-shelf from existing US stocks of low-cost, carrier-capable aircraft. [20394]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* A previous study, which included a comparison with a US in-service, carrier-capable aircraft, concluded that the Joint Strike Fighter provided the best value for money in light of our future capability requirements. The Strategic Defence and Security Review reaffirmed our commitment to the Joint Strike Fighter programme. We will keep our plans under review as a part of our routine planning.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence how many fewer Tornado GR4 Force and F-35 aircraft he now plans to purchase. [21313]

Peter Luff: The Strategic Defence and Security Review announced our plans for our fast jet fleet. Prior to the review there were no plans for further purchases of Tornado GR4 aircraft and this position has not changed. We intend to buy enough Joint Strike Fighter aircraft to build up our carrier strike capability, and to operate a balanced fleet of JSF and Typhoon aircraft in the medium to long term. We will confirm the exact number of JSF aircraft in our initial buy at the time of our main investment decision, in line with usual practice.

Military Aircraft: Sonar

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence which of his Department's aircraft can deploy sonar buoys; and what the *(a)* ferry range and *(b)* combat radius of each such aircraft is. [21443]

Peter Luff: The only aircraft capable of deploying sonobuoys (sonar buoys) is the Royal Navy's Merlin HM Mkl helicopter. There are currently 26 Merlin HM Mkl in the forward fleet. To release information on the aircraft's combat and ferry ranges would allow an assessment to be made of the operational capability of the fleet and its disclosure would, or would be likely to, prejudice the capability, effectiveness and security of our armed forces.

Navy

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what the current tasks are of the Royal Navy. [21302]

Nick Harvey: The Royal Navy undertakes a wide variety of tasks and activities around the globe. These include:

Op Telic

Maintenance of integrity and security of Iraqi Territorial Seas.

Op Calash

Counter Piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian Ocean.

Ocean Shield NATO

Counter Piracy and counter smuggling operations within the Arabian Sea, Gulf of Aden, and North Indian Ocean.

NATO Standing NATO Maritime Group 1

A continuous maritime capability for mine-countermeasures integration within NATO response force (NRF) operations, non NRF operations and other activities in peacetime and periods of crisis and conflict.

Gibraltar Sqn

Security of Gibraltar Territorial Seas.

Atlantic Patrol Task (North)

(Hurricane season only)—UK's maritime contribution to the Caribbean and North Atlantic area. Protection of UK interests, humanitarian role in response to the natural disasters, especially hurricanes, which are prevalent in this region. Additionally working alongside the US Coastguard and the Royal Netherlands Navy: a significant contribution to the UK's counter drugs operations.

Atlantic Patrol Task (South)

The standing naval commitment to the South Atlantic and West African regions. Provide a maritime presence to protect the British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands and UK's interests in the region.

Falkland Islands Patrol Ship

Permanently stationed in the region, responsible for maintaining British sovereignty of the Falkland Islands, including South Georgia and the South Sandwich Islands.

Ice Patrol Ship

Antarctic patrol ship during austral summer.

UK Nuclear Deterrent Patrols and Contingency Operations

Maritime Security Royal Navy and Royal Marine units at readiness to react to any possible threat to the integrity of UK Territorial Seas and security of the UK.

Fishery Protection

Patrolling UK's extended Fisheries Zone.

The Royal Navy has also two teams which provide search and rescue facilities and 3 Commando Brigade RM are in preparation for Op Herrick 14.

Michael Dugher: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely cost to his Department of *(a)* decommissioning HMS Ark Royal, *(b)* reducing by four the number of frigates, *(c)* placing at extended readiness a landing and command ship and *(d)* decommissioning either HMS Ocean or HMS Illustrious. [21332]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* Detailed work to estimate the costs of decommissioning these vessels, or placing them at extended readiness, is ongoing and will be completed during the Department's planning round process, and as part of the study to consider which of HMS Ocean and Illustrious will be retained in service.

Navy: Military Bases

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the likely effect on the number of jobs at HMNB *(a)* Portsmouth and *(b)* Devonport of the proposed reduction in the strength of the Royal Navy; and if he will make a statement. [21299]

Peter Luff: I refer the hon. Member to the answer I gave on 27 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 377W, to the hon. Member for West Dunbartonshire (Gemma Doyle).

Nimrod Aircraft

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what assessment he has made of the likely effects on the level of aerial anti-shipping defence of the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A project; [19442]

(2) what estimate he has made of the cost of his Department's contractual obligations to BAE Systems of the cancelling of the Nimrod MRA4 programme; [19725]

(3) what assets are deployed in the aerial anti-submarine role; [19726]

(4) what assessment he has made of the likely effect on the level of aerial anti-submarine defence of the cancellation of the Nimrod MR4A project; [20199]

(5) what plans he has for NATO allies to provide aerial anti-submarine patrolling within UK territorial waters; [20200]

(6) what type of avionic suites were purchased for the Nimrod MR4A; how many such suites were purchased; and at what cost to the public purse. [20759]

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what expenditure his Department expects to incur in withdrawing the Nimrod MRA4 from service; [19560]

(2) what assessment he has made of the effects on the protection of overseas territories of the withdrawal from service of the Nimrod MRA4; [19561]

(3) what assessment he has made of the effects on the protection of the independent Strategic Nuclear Deterrent of the withdrawal from service of the Nimrod MRA4; [19562]

(4) what assets he expects to fill the capability gap left by the withdrawal from service of the Nimrod MRA4. [19563]

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the Royal Air Force's future anti-submarine capability following the cancellation of the Nimrod MRA4. [21181]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* I refer the hon. Members to the answer I gave on 28 October 2010, *Official Report*, columns 450-51W to the hon. Members for East Kilbride, Strathaven and Lesmahagow (Mr McCann), Coventry North East (Mr Ainsworth) and North Durham (Mr Jones).

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when the first contract to procure the Nimrod MRA4 was signed; and what initial estimate his Department made of the cost of the Nimrod MRA4 project. [21296]

Peter Luff: The contract for the design, development and production of the Nimrod MRA4 aircraft was signed in December 1996 and annually reviewed as part of subsequent planning rounds. The initial approved cost of the demonstration and manufacture phases of the project at Main Gate was £2.813 billion, as reported in the Major Projects Report 2010.

Nuclear Submarines: Accidents

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the cost to his Department of repairs to HMS Vanguard as a result of its collision with Le Triomphant in February 2009. [20126]

Dr Fox: Following her collision with FS Le Triomphant in early 2009 repairs to HMS Vanguard were carried out on her return to Her Majesty's Naval Base Clyde under existing support arrangements with Babcock Marine. The cost of these repairs was approximately £1 million.

RAF Kinloss: Rescue Services

Angus Robertson: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to announce his decision on the future of the Mountain Rescue Service at RAF Kinloss. [21448]

Nick Harvey: Work is now under way to consider the implications of decisions announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review for UK military bases, including the future of the Mountain Rescue Service at RAF Kinloss.

RAF Menwith Hill

Mr Fabian Hamilton: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence whether his Department owns the buildings and other infrastructure on the American base at RAF Menwith Hill. [21159]

Nick Harvey: All buildings, fixed assets and site and infrastructure at RAF Menwith Hill are owned by the Ministry of Defence.

Rosyth Dockyard: Radiation Exposure

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what recent assessment he has made of the adequacy of the radiation protection measures at the Rosyth Royal Dockyard since radioactive contamination was found in the personal lockers of workers at the dockyard; and what recent changes have been made to health protection measures for employees at that dockyard. [21068]

Peter Luff: All nuclear safety matters relating to Rosyth Royal Dockyard are a matter for Babcock Marine (Rosyth) Ltd, the owners of the dockyard. It is a condition of their contract with the Ministry of Defence that they must comply with all nuclear safety regulations including the Ionising Radiation Regulations 1999.

Royal Fleet Auxiliary: Manpower

John McDonnell: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence (1) what forecast he has made of manning levels in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary in each of the next five years; [20446]

(2) how many people were employed in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary at the latest date for which figures are available. [20447]

Peter Luff *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* At 1 October 2010, around 2,370 people were employed in the Royal Fleet Auxiliary (RFA). The future size of the RFA and future RFA manning levels are likely to be affected by the reductions in the size of the surface fleet announced in the Strategic Defence and Security Review and the RFA value for money review. The details have yet to be fully determined and will be announced in due course.

Sea King Helicopters

Mr Ainsworth: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what timetable he has set for the Westland Sea King HAR3 helicopters to be taken out of service. [21271]

Peter Luff: It is planned that all Sea King Mk3/3a helicopters will be withdrawn from service by the end of 2016.

Submarines: Finance

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of the lifetime costs of the Future Submarine Programme. [20627]

Dr Fox: The Value for Money Review concluded that the overall cost of the submarine and warhead replacement programmes and associated infrastructure remains within the £20 billion cost estimate foreseen in the 2006 White Paper (Cm6994) at 2006 prices.

As the White Paper also makes clear, once the new fleet of ballistic missile submarines come into service we expect that the in-service costs of the UK's nuclear deterrent, which will include the Atomic Weapons Establishment's costs, will be similar to today.

Tessa Munt: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence when he expects to enter into contractual arrangements for long-lead items on the Future Submarine Programme; what estimate he has made of the total cost of such items; what assessment he has made of the capability of such arrangements with arrangements for review by Parliament of all options of Main Gate, including cancellation; and what consideration he has given to ensuring that cancellation fees for long-lead item contracts do not restrict the consideration of alternatives. [20719]

Peter Luff: Contractual arrangements for long lead items for both the submarine platform and propulsion systems will be entered into as necessary during the programme's assessment phase to prevent unnecessary delays to the programme. Final decisions on the long lead items required during the assessment phase will be made as part of, and following, the initial gate approvals process. It is too early to state the costs of these items.

Long lead items are those that it is necessary to contract for ahead of the main gate decision point. The procurement of long lead items across Ministry of Defence projects does not constrain main gate decisions and any such early commitment takes into account the balance of risk of a project not securing main gate approval.

Territorial Army: Finance

Mr Kevan Jones: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what estimate he has made of cost savings required of the Territorial Army in the next five years. [21401]

Mr Robathan *[holding answer 2 November 2010]:* The strategic defence and security review and spending review settlement are not predicated on any assumed savings against the Territorial Army. The six month study into the reserves will examine whether they are properly structured to enable the Ministry of Defence to make the most efficient use of their skills, experience and capabilities in the modern era. It is too early to assess whether any cost savings will result from the study.

Trident

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence on what date he was first informed that Trident would be included in the Strategic Defence and Security Review; and if he will make a statement. [20396]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* The Government made clear that they were committed to retaining a nuclear deterrent based on Trident, so the decision did not need to be revisited in the strategic defence and security review. However, the Ministry of Defence has been very clear that the value for money review was conducted within the framework of the strategic defence and security review.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what advice from the military he received, and on what date, recommending postponing the main gate decision for the Trident successor system until 2016. [20397]

Dr Fox *[holding answer 3 November 2010]:* The senior Ministry of Defence officials, military and civilian, responsible for leading the Successor ballistic missile submarine programme were and are content that 2016 is a realistic date at which to take the Main Gate decision, given a 2028 in-service date for the first of the new submarines. This was reflected in advice approved by the National Security Council, which includes myself and the Chief of the Defence Staff.

Dr Huppert: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what his most recent estimate is of the cost to his Department of the UK's contribution to the Trident D5 missile life extension programme; what contingency arrangements he has put in place to provide for budget overspends on the programme; and what level of overspend those arrangements allow for. [20629]

Dr Fox: It is currently estimated that the cost of the UK's participation in the Trident D5 missile life extension programme will remain within the £250 million figure stated in the December 2006 White Paper, "The Future of the United Kingdom's Nuclear Deterrent" (Cm 6994).

There are no specific contingency arrangements for budgetary overspends aside from the existing departmental project approvals and budgetary planning processes.

Caroline Lucas: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence pursuant to the answer to the hon. Member for Wyre and Preston North of 22 October 2010, *Official Report*, column 883W, on Trident, what the three additional Long Overhaul Periods will be for each submarine; and what proportion of the estimated £1.3 billion cost will fall *(a)* in the current period up to 2014-15 and *(b)* the period 2015-16 to 2020-21. [21065]

Dr Fox: The Ministry of Defence (MOD) made estimates of the cost savings accrued from measures in the Strategic Defence and Security Review for the purposes of formulating policy. Some of these have been published to help inform the public debate. Release of further detail may prejudice the MOD's negotiating position with its commercial suppliers. Furthermore, final savings figures will depend on detailed implementation. The MOD is therefore not prepared to release more detailed figures at this time.

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what assessment his Department has made of the feasibility of alternative systems to Trident to provide the United Kingdom's nuclear deterrent; and if he will make a statement. [21107]

Dr Fox: The Trident value for money review did not look at alternatives to a submarine-launched ballistic-missile system.

Warships

Dr Julian Lewis: To ask the Secretary of State for Defence what progress his Department has made on the design of the Future Surface Combatant; and whether the programme will incorporate modules that enable the subsequent incorporation of additional weapons systems. [21180]

Peter Luff: The Type 26 Global Combat Ship project entered its Assessment Phase in March 2010, and a four-year contract was placed with BAE Systems Surface Ships to work with the Ministry of Defence to produce a full design specification to be taken into the demonstration and build phases.

The Type 26 Global Combat Ship programme is adopting a through-life capability management approach, which will plan the evolution of the combat and weapons systems through the life of the vessel. The design intent is to have a combat system that will be flexible to future change and which would enable the addition of alternative/new systems or modules during the life of the platform; this approach will also enhance the export potential for this class of ship.

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 26 October 2010

JUSTICE

Cookham Wood Secure Training Centre

Tom Brake: To ask the Secretary of State for Justice what *(a)* injuries and *(b)* injuries requiring external medical treatment were sustained during restraint incidents on girls held in Medway secure training centre in each month since 1998. [14231]

[Official Report, 14 September 2010, Vol. 515, c. 983-984W.]

Letter of correction from Mr Blunt:

An error has been identified in the written answer given to the hon. Member for Carshalton and Wallington (Tom Brake) on 14 September 2010.

The full answer given was as follows:

Mr Blunt: The YJB has collected data since April 2007 showing the number of injuries in each category, but this data is not broken down by gender.

The definitions for these categories are:

Minor injury requiring medical treatment

This includes cuts, scratches, grazes, blood noses, concussion, serious bruising and sprains where medical treatment is given by a member of staff or a nurse. Treatment could include cleaning and dressing wounds, providing pain relief, and monitoring symptoms by a health professional (e.g. in relation to concussion). This includes first aid administered by a staff member.

Serious injury requiring hospital treatment

This includes serious cuts, fractures, loss of consciousness and damage to internal organs. Where 24-hour health care is available the young person may remain onsite. At other establishments, the young person will be taken to a local hospital. Treatment will reflect the more serious nature of the injuries sustained and may include stitches, re-setting bones, operations and providing overnight observation.

It is currently a contractual requirement for any young person within an STC who has been restrained to be visited by a registered nurse within thirty minutes following the use of restraint.

The latest data available is for 2008-09 and is provided in the table as follows. The data from 2009-10 will be available following the publication of the 2009-10 annual YJB Workload statistics.

These figures have been drawn from administrative IT systems, which, as with any large scale recording system, are subject to possible errors with data entry and processing and may be subject to change over time.

Number of injuries sustained during restraint incidents by severity of injury

	Minor injury—requiring medical treatment	*Serious injury—requiring hospital treatment*
April 2007	7	0
May 2007	8	0
June 2007	4	0
July 2007	13	0
August 2007	2	0
September 2007	3	0
October 2007	3	0
November 2007	7	0
December 2007	4	0
January 2008	7	0
February 2008	4	0
March 2008	5	0
April 2008	1	0
May 2008	2	0
June 2008	3	0
July 2008	1	0
August 2008	1	0
September 2008	3	0
October 2008	4	0
November 2008	4	0
December 2008	3	0
January 2009	1	0
February 2009	4	0
March 2009	7	0

The correct answer should have been:

Mr Blunt: The YJB has collected data since April 2007 showing the number of injuries in each category, but this data is not broken down by gender.

The definitions for these categories are:

Minor injury requiring medical treatment

This includes cuts, scratches, grazes, blood noses, concussion, serious bruising and sprains where medical treatment is given by a member of staff or a nurse. Treatment could include cleaning and dressing wounds, providing pain relief, and monitoring symptoms by a health professional (e.g. in relation to concussion). This includes first aid administered by a staff member.

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November 2007	7	0
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February 2008	4	0
March 2008	5	0
April 2008	5	0
May 2008	2	0
June 2008	3	0

Number of injuries sustained during restraint incidents by severity of injury

	Minor injury—requiring medical treatment	*Serious injury—requiring hospital treatment*
July 2008	1	0
August 2008	1	0
September 2008	3	0
October 2008	4	0
November 2008	4	0
December 2008	3	0
January 2009	1	0
February 2009	4	0
March 2009	7	0

Ministerial Correction

Wednesday 27 October 2010

COMMUNITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

NEW HOMES

Housing

The following is the answer given by the Minister for Housing and Local Government, the right hon. Member for Welwyn Hatfield (Grant Shapps), relating to questions from the right hon. Member for Don Valley (Caroline Flint) and the hon. Members for Finchley and Golders Green (Mike Freer) and for Plymouth, Moor View (Alison Seabeck) during Communities and Local Government Question Time on 21 October 2010.

Grant Shapps: Absolutely. Until now there has been only one way to get into social housing, and for most people that way has not led to their getting a social home. That is why housing waiting lists doubled under the last Government from 1 million to nearly 2 million. There was only a single offer, and not enough homes were being built. We have introduced affordable rent, which means that rents can be up to 80% of the market rent. That is a more viable option, and it means that less money can produce more homes and that new investment will go into providing homes for the most needy in society, who were so badly let down by a Government who produced only a 14,000 net gain in affordable homes during a 13-year period in office.

[Official Report, 21 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 1113.]

Letter of correction from Grant Shapps:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 21 October 2010.

The correct answer should have been:

Grant Shapps: Absolutely. Until now there has been only one way to get into social housing, and for most people that way has not led to their getting a social home. That is why housing waiting lists doubled under the last Government from 1 million to nearly 2 million. There was only a single offer, and not enough homes were being built. We have introduced affordable rent, which means that rents can be up to 80% of the market rent. That is a more viable option, and it means that less money can produce more homes and that new investment will go into providing homes for the most needy in society, who were so badly let down by a Government who produced only a 40,000 net loss in affordable homes during a 13-year period in office.

Ministerial Correction

Thursday 28 October 2010

HOME DEPARTMENT

Departmental Press

Mike Freer: To ask the Secretary of State for the Home Department how much her Department spent on newspapers, periodicals and trade profession magazines in each year since 1997. [16227]

[Official Report, 11 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 188-189W.]

Letter of correction from Nick Herbert:

An error has been identified in the response given to the hon. Member for Finchley and Golders Green (Mike Freer) on 11 October 2010. The year '2010' of the *Official Report* reference in the second paragraph should have read '2009'.

The correct answer should have been:

Nick Herbert: The answer to this question is provided in the following table. It covers the period 1999-2009. Figures before 1999 are not available.

This year we have been able to access more information that has enabled us to provide more details than we did in answering a similar question answered on 31 March 2009, *Official Report*, columns 1075-76W.

The figures from 2006 onwards are taken from a corporate framework agreement which gives improved value for money when compared to previous arrangements.

This framework agreement includes figures for the UK Border Agency and it is not possible to separate out their expenditure from this figure. The other Executive agencies do not yet use this framework and so are not included.

The figures provided reflect the functions with the Home Office during the listed years. Machinery of government changes and internal departmental restructuring has led to changes in the size and functions of the Department. As a consequence direct comparison year on year is very difficult.

Expenditure on newspapers and journals for period 1999-2010

	£
1999	13,086
2000	14,676
2001	24,981
2002	23,359
2003	26,734
2004	41,056
2005	42,277
2006	116,237
2007	102,277
2008	80,190
2009	63,479
2010	37,745

Ministerial Correction

Tuesday 2 November 2010

LEADER OF THE HOUSE

Business of the House

The following is the answer given by the Leader of the House of Commons, the right hon. Member for North West Hampshire (Sir George Young) relating to a question from the hon. Member for Huddersfield (Mr Sheerman) during Business of the House on 14 October 2010.

Sir George Young: The Government will be spending some £90 million on universities and student support this year.

[Official Report, 14 October 2010, Vol. 516, c. 493.]

Letter of correction from Sir George Young:

An error has been identified in the oral answer given on 14 October 2010.

The correct answer should have been:

Sir George Young: The Government will be spending some £19 billion on universities and student support this year.